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ANOTHER HOLLYWOOD BABY BOOM MEANS PREDICTING THE STYLES OF MINI JESSICA SIMPSON, AMONG OTHERS PAGE 32

TORONTO metro®
Thursday, March 22, 2012
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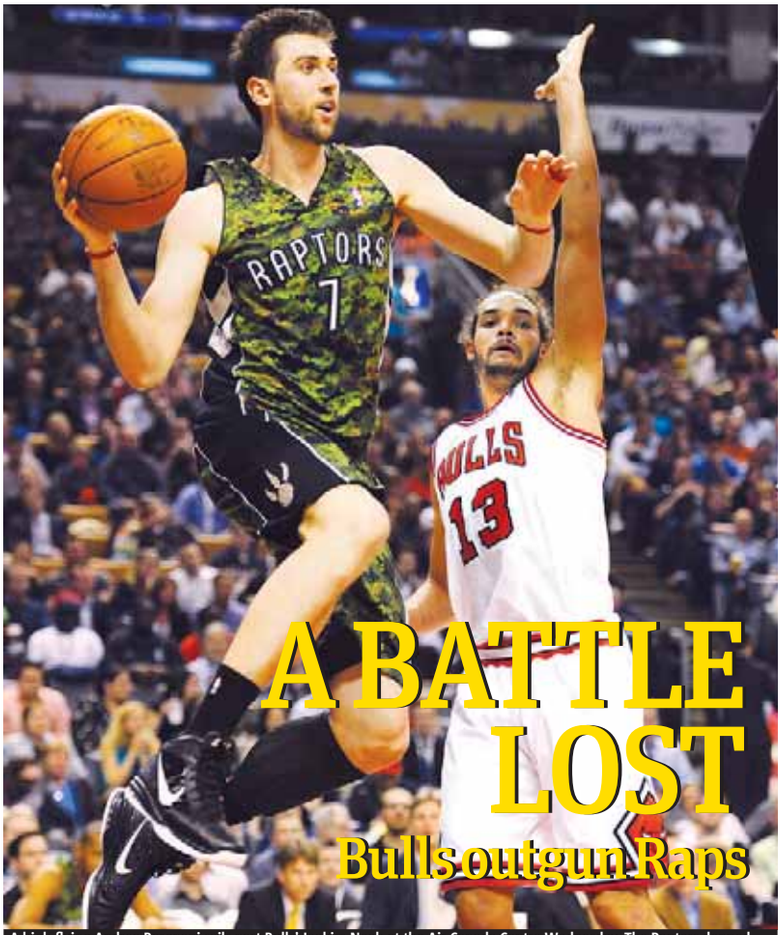

A high-flying Andrea Bargnani sails past Bulls' Joakim Noah at the Air Canada Centre Wednesday. The Raptors donned camouflage uniforms in honour of their annual Canadian Forces Appreciation Night, and they completely disappeared during an eight-minute span of the fourth quarter, losing 94-82. See story, page 54. RICK EGLINTON/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Last-ditch effort made for subways

Decision delayed. Council conservatives clamour for taxes to build Sheppard subway

Mayor Rob Ford shut down the Sheppard Avenue transit debate Wednesday night to stop council from voting for light rail and then fled into an elevator to escape reporters' questions.

The bizarre scene, described as "scattered and desperate" by centrist Coun. Josh Colle, included Ford failing to delay the vote until April 4 — a bid that triggered mayhem on the council floor. The council meeting resumes Thursday at 9:30 a.m.

Ford allies denying routine permission to let last night's meeting run past 8 p.m. also apparently prevented another spectacle — a mayor who rode to victory pledging to "end the war on the car," publicly supporting creation of a $100-per-spot tax on commercial parking spots to fund subway building.

Council's centre and left members who support LRT on Sheppard were fuming after Ford bolted down a hall into an elevator, a press aide blocking reporters scrambling behind.

"You can't make this stuff up," said Coun. Joe Mihevc. "People were witness to a filibuster that was shameless," he said.

Scarborough Coun. Glenn de Baeremaeker called the 13.5-hour delay "a very desperate tactic by a very desperate man. The mayor saw defeat just minutes away and just said 'Let me escape.'"

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

'A person with a conscience'

One phone call from an anonymous source helped police crack the 'suitcase murder' cold case and lay charges against a father and stepmother PAGE 3

China's rock scene rising

Author to discuss his new book about 'red rock' — or the underground music scene in the communist country — at the Gladstone Hotel PAGE 22

Tweet like it's your birthday

In just six years, Twitter has wormed its way into mainstream society, attracting more than 100 million users PAGE 19

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Dad, stepmom charged in 'suitcase murder'

Melonie Biddersingh, 17, was identified as the victim whose remains were found in a burning suitcase in Vaughan in 1994. TORONTO POLICE

A simple phone call to police last November was the key that unlocked a murder mystery going back almost two decades.

"It started with a phone call from a person with a conscience," Toronto police Det. Sgt. Steve Ryan told a news conference Wednesday.

"It goes to show the power of a phone call. It's a difficult case."

The call, from a person Ryan would not name, helped police identify 17-year-old Melonie Biddersingh whose charred remains were found stuffed in a suitcase behind a Vaughan industrial plaza on Sept. 1, 1994.

On Wednesday, police released a 1990 photo of Biddersingh holding an unidentified child in Kingston, Jamaica, where she was born.

On March 5, Toronto police charged her father and stepmother with first-degree murder.

Everton Biddersingh, 56, and Elaine Biddersingh, 50, were arrested in Welland, Ont., and appeared in court the next day.

They are in custody until their next court appearance.

Ryan, who heads the cold-case squad, said police know the cause of death but are not releasing it.

A police source said the teen was beaten, starved and kept in a closet. At death, she may have weighed as little as 50 pounds.

Her charred remains were found when York police came across a mysterious fire. Gasoline or some other fuel had apparently been poured over the suitcase and set ablaze only minutes before an officer on patrol spotted the flames and thick, black smoke shortly after 3 a.m.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Remains found

- Biddersingh's body, curled in the fetal position, was found in the once forest-green suitcase.
- Her fingerprints, handprints and footprints were burned off. Little was left of what investigators surmised was once curly black hair.

Reprimanded. Doctor loses licence in liposuction death

The anesthesiologist involved in the botched liposuction surgery that led to the death of Krista Stryland has lost his licence.

A disciplinary committee of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario ruled Wednesday that Dr. Bruce Liberman should have his licence revoked, effective immediately.

Liberman will also have to face a public reprimand at a future date and pay the college $62,000 in hearing costs within six months.

In the 35-page decision, the five-member committee said Liberman abdicated responsibility for Stryland during the time she was in his care.

Calling the case "one of the most serious or most egregious" it has seen, the committee said revoking Liberman's licence is warranted because of his "serious and repeated acts of professional misconduct in his care of Ms Stryland, his profound lack of judgment, his incompetence, his dishonesty, and his lack of insight."

It said taking away Liberman's licence — the college's most severe penalty — is necessary "to maintain public confidence in the medical profession." TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Court

Green groups challenge province's plans for new reactors

A group of environmentalists has gone to court to challenge Ontario's plan to build new nuclear reactors, arguing the environmental risks and costs involved haven't been properly assessed. Lawyers for Ecojustice and the Canadian Environmental Law Association have filed arguments in Federal Court on behalf of several green agencies, saying a review panel failed to carry out a proper environmental assessment.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

GTA. Canadian gangs 'expert' drawing criticism

A so-called Canadian gangs expert, whose testimony in a Toronto courtroom last year was used to help secure a first-degree murder conviction, has come under strong criticism by an Ontario Superior Court judge for a second time.

Mark Totten, an Ottawa sociologist, has "virtually no expertise with gangs in the Greater Toronto Area," Ontario Superior Court Justice Robert Clark said in a 27-page ruling which had been under a publication ban until the jury in a gang-related case began deliberations Wednesday. Yet, this is the same sociologist who, in 2009, was praised by the Ontario Court of Appeal for having "extensive and impressive credentials" in the field of street gang culture. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Challenged

- In the most recent case, prosecutor Mary Misener challenged Totten about his research as the defence in a gang-related trial sought to qualify him as an expert.
- Totten could not, for instance, name any Toronto police gang investigations or identify any gang members, territorial boundaries, graffiti or tattoos.

1 NEWS

On the mobile

According to a recent study, Canadians are more willing than Americans to sift through promotional emails in exchange for cut-rate deals. Scan the code for the story.

On the web

Ramsay skewers ex-resto

Celebrity chef Gordon Ramsay served his former Montreal restaurant a $2.7- million dollar lawsuit Wednesday. For more about the chef known not only for his delicatessens but also for his fiesty demeanour, go to metronews.ca/video.

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Cross mobile tower an eyeful or an eyesore?

Camouflage. Milton residents protest Bell's latest attempt to blend their towers into neighbourhoods

For many Christians, the cross is a symbol of love and hope.

In Milton, it may soon be a beacon for improved cellphone coverage.

A proposal to ensconce a Bell cellphone tower inside a gigantic steel cross at New Life Church has caused a stir among nearby homeowners.

"Let me put it this way, I don't want to get up and eat breakfast in front of it," says Kristen Jaques, who lives behind the church. "Whether it's the shape of a cross or not, it's a big ugly tower."

The proposed 29.9-metre tower is the latest in cellphone company efforts to make their infrastructure blend in with local surroundings. A similar cross was recently installed on a Mississauga church adjacent to the QEW. In Muskoka, a pine tree makes for good camouflage. Other disguises Bell has used are chimneys, flagpoles and clocktowers.

Jaques and her family moved from Toronto to Milton "to get away from all this" and now she and her neighbours are worried about electromagnetic waves emanating from the proposed cross. While she respects freedom of expression and religion, she says it might not be appropriate.

New Life Pastor Dan Rogge says his congregation was aware there might be negative response, but he's been surprised by some of it. "I certainly do not desire to cause any offence to anyone by suggesting to them that I don't appreciate their symbol, because to them, that symbol reminds them of their devotion."

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Bell Mobility's photo illustration of the proposed cross/cellphone tower, as posted on Coun. Mike Cluett's website.

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Graffiti. Mississauga looking at ban on sale of spray paint to youth

Mississauga council is considering a ban to prevent anyone younger than 18 from buying spray paint, broad-tipped markers or glass-cutting tools, dubbed "graffiti implements."

The term is included in a draft bylaw that was before council Wednesday, a possible response to a graffiti problem one councillor describes as out of control.

"All of the (current) measures are reactive, after there's hundreds of thousands of dollars of damage," Coun. Pat Saito told council. She sits on council's graffiti committee and says Peel Police asked her to introduce the bylaw to help curb the vandalism being done to public and private property.

Saito told the Toronto Star that just one tagging incident in her ward cost the city $50,000. "And that doesn't include what it cost the school board in damage or one of the utilities that had property damaged in the incident."

Other councillors and Mayor Hazel McCallion said they would not support the bylaw, mainly because it would be hard to enforce: People could still lay their hands on those materials in a neighbouring municipality or online, or anywhere if at least 18.

Council decided to defer the issue and have a staff report recommending against the bylaw go back to the graffiti committee.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Opposing view

"What we do is penalize a hundred thousand art students ... I'd rather spend the money on education."

Councillor Ron Starr, who is against the bylaw banning the sale of 'graffiti implements' to minors

Petition. York professors to protest Balsillie deal

More than 200 York University professors are calling for a halt to plans for a joint law program with tech tycoon Jim Balsillie's think-tank until changes are made that they feel will prevent academic meddling by the BlackBerry co-founder.

The professors will present a petition Thursday to York's Senate, expressing concerns over a deal they feel is "riddled with problems" that give too much influence over the program to Balsillie's Centre for International Governance Innovation.

Jim Balsillie

THE CANADIAN PRESS

York vice-president Patrick Monahan has hailed the $60-million partnership — the first half to come from Queen's Park — as a cutting-edge investment that will bring cachet as well as cash to the campus.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

TTC construction

Section of Yonge subway line shut down on weekend

Due to track construction, the TTC will close the Yonge line from Union Station to Bloor Station Friday, March 23 at midnight to Sunday, March 25. Regular subway service will resume on Monday, March 26 at 6 a.m. Frequent bus service will operate between Bloor and Union Stations. Two more closures will occur in coming months.

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Chinese stem cell donors needed, stat!

Health. New campaign encourages the Chinese community to join registry

PHOEBE HO
toronto@metronews.ca

Inexplicable bruises and chronic fatigue were 17-year-old Katie Chong's very first symptoms.

"I tried to go for a run with my mom," said the Grade 12 Hamilton student. "I could only run about 15 metres and then I had to stop and had to go home, go to sleep again."

They thought it was a virus, Chong said.

After several weeks, many tests and a few hospital visits later, the results came in September — Chong was diagnosed with Myelodysplastic Syndrome (MDS), a group of conditions that occur when blood-forming cells in the bone marrow are damaged and is a precursor to leukemia for a third of MDS patients. It could take anywhere from a few months to years to transform into leukemia, said Princess Margaret Hospital medical oncologist Eric Chen, and the only cure is a stem cell transplant.

But he says there is no time to waste for Chong, who comes from a bi-racial background with a Chinese father and Caucasian mother. Donor matches are often found within their own ethnic group — the Bone Marrow Donors Worldwide database right now is made up of 80 per cent Caucasian donors, and less than three per cent are of Chinese origin. Chong's bi-racial background makes it infinitely harder to find a match, Chen says.

"She is a minority of a minority," said Chen. "So the chance of her finding a match is even lower, it's going to take a lot more effort to find someone from a similar background."

Henry Yee, a donor, and Katie Chong, a patient in need of a stem cell transplant, spoke at the launch of the Chinese stem cell drive at the Splendid China Mall to spread awareness and urge Chinese donors to join the registry.
PHOEBE HO/FOR METRO

Since her diagnosis, Chong has received a transfusion, which she says will help for now. Her constant state of fatigue hasn't stopped the active teen from engaging in her usual activities, with the exception of contact sports.

"In the beginning it was really hard because I was a lot more tired, so it was really hard to keep up with school," she said. "I don't know if I'm just getting used to being so tired, but I'm trying to cope with it."

But while Chong is waiting for a match, she is also spreading awareness of the disease and working with OtherHalf, a Chinese Stem Cell Initiative and One-Match Stem Cell & Marrow Network to encourage more multi-ethnic Chinese to join the registry.

"The Chinese culture always have this misconception that we cannot donate, we should not donate, or donating blood or anything will harm our own health," said Chen. "That's a misconception ... our body has the ability to regenerate ... so for donors, there's essentially no risk."

Henry Yee, one of the nine Chinese-Canadian stem cell donors who have been a match for Chinese patients around the world, says the process was very much like donating blood.

"It was very straightforward, very quick and it wasn't painful," said the 24-year-old who plans on re-joining the donor pool. "It's not everyday you have the opportunity to save a life."

The campaign

- **331 National Chinese Stem Cell Drive – OtherHalf.** A Chinese Stem Cell Initiative will be partnering with OneMatch Stem Cell & Marrow Network to organize the third National Chinese Stem Cell Drive in Toronto, Vancouver, Calgary and Montreal on Mar. 31.
- **Numbers.** There are thousands of Chinese patients around the world in need of a stem cell donor, 32 are in Canada.
- **More information.** Visit chinesestemcell.ca

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Ornge. Province handed ambulance service cash with little oversight: AG

Ornge's airborne misadventures have also come crashing to earth with its land ambulances, says Auditor General Jim McCarter.

Since 2008, Ornge has received nearly $13 million a year to transfer a projected 20,000 patients by road but in reality, it only transports about 15 per cent of that or 3,000 people, McCarter discovered in his probe of the troubled agency.

The government gave the money blindly and never bothered to find out "how many transfers Ornge has actually made," the report noted.

"We are not getting what we are paying for," McCarter said Wednesday during the release of his special report. "The ministry was in the dark, they just didn't know."

Progressive Conservative MPP Frank Klees wasn't surprised there are big problems in Ornge's land services.

"That is another one that is brewing," Klees said. "The number of stories I am getting about what is going on in land ambulance transfers is huge, we just haven't had the time to talk about it."

In many critical cases in the Greater Toronto Area, Ornge had to rely on Toronto Emergency Medical Services (TEMS) to handle patient land transports — but they only paid them a fraction of what it cost the ministry.

When Ornge enlists TEMS to provide an inter-facility transfer, they pay the municipal service $1,700 for each case. But ORNGE budgets $7,700 for that same patient land transfer or 7 per cent less than it is by air — a cost of $8,300, the auditor found.

Auditor General Jim McCarter
CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Stafford trial. McClintic wrote in detention of wanting to smash skulls

Warning. Graphic details from this court case may disturb some readers

A jury saw glimpses Wednesday of two strikingly different Terri-Lynne McClintics: one, the weeping teen who claims she unwittingly led Victoria Stafford to her death and the other, a hardened young criminal who talked of smashing skulls, torturing victims and killing witnesses.

The woman who confessed to murder in the death of the Grade 3 student gave a tearful videotaped confession to police weeks after Tori disappeared in April 2009, which court watched Wednesday, but a year earlier while in a detention centre she wrote about pent-up rage driving a desire to murder random people.

"I juz wanna be on road n take the first person I see, grab em ... bring em wit me (and) ... mutilate the (expletive) out of them, smash (their) skull apart then piece it togetha like a puzzle that way (they) stay conscious of the pain I'm inflictin on em," McClintic wrote to a friend while in custody in March 2008.

She was doing time for robbing and stabbing two people, court heard, and it was a breach of probation for that offence that led her into custody after Tori disappeared April 8, 2009. Some initial tips named McClintic as a suspect and she was arrested April 12 on the probation violation, though it was not until May 19 that she confessed to Tori's murder.

In a letter

"I'm so blood thirsty I just wanna be on road so I can take the first person I see (and) shatter their skull."

Terri-Lynne McClintic
Wrote this in a letter from the detention centre

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Protesters take to the streets

Demonstrators gather on College Green opposite Britain's Houses of Parliament to protest against the government's austerity measures as British Cabinet minister George Osborne, who is responsible for all financial matters, presents his annual budget to Parliament in London on Wednesday. Despite increasing pressure on the minister to help ease the financial burden on Britons during his address to Parliament, it is likely that Osborne will continue with the stringent measures he has implemented over the last few years in an attempt to tackle the U.K.'s deficit.

MATTHEW LLOYD/GETTY IMAGES

Conflict of interest? Baird defends embattled ex-ambassador to Libya

When she returned to Tripoli last fall Sandra McCardell wanted to see for herself that her local Libyan staff had survived a six-month NATO bombing campaign ahead of the final dispatching of dictator Moammar Gadhafi.

McCardell's main job was to oversee the reopening of the embassy — everything from inspecting bullet holes to making sure secure communications were up and running again — but Canada's ambassador to Libya's return last fall to the embassy that she led was never destined to be anything more than a curtain call.

McCardell is no longer in the high-profile post after questions were raised about a potential conflict of interest surrounding the business dealings of her husband. News of her being pulled out of the post was originally reported in La Presse.

In February, the CBC reported McCardell's husband was hired by Montreal engineering firm SNC-Lavalin to work as part of a military-civilian engineering unit with the Gadhafi regime.

Difficult post

The Tripoli posting is considered one of the most difficult jobs for any foreign envoy. McCardell quarterbacked the closure of the embassy in February 2011 when the NATO-led bombing campaign began in earnest to protect Libyan civilians from Gadhafi's forces.

- **Rising star.** The office of Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird made clear he is standing behind Sandra McCardell, who is still widely viewed as a rising star in Canada's foreign service.

Senior government officials said Wednesday they are convinced McCardell will ultimately be cleared of any conflict of interest, allowing her foreign service career to carry on in another Arabic speaking country.

Those officials said she has been back in Canada since November to undertake advanced language training in Arabic.

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Health care

Alberta reaches deal with doctors

The group that represents Alberta physicians has reached a tentative pay deal with the province after a year of talks and only days before an anticipated election call. The agreement would give doctors a 2.5 per cent increase to fees this year and another 2.5 per cent retroactive to April 2011. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Satellite launch

U.S.-North Korea thaw is over

The United States said Wednesday it is suspending efforts to recover remains of thousands of fallen service members in North Korea.

North Korea announced plans last week to launch a satellite into space by rocket — a step the U.S. says would violate a UN ban. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Egypt elections

Islamic group may yet field candidate

The Muslim Brotherhood, Egypt's most powerful political group, said Wednesday it is considering running its own candidate in upcoming presidential elections, dropping its previous decision to avoid direct participation in the race. A presidency win would give them control of two main branches of power. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hockey coach abuse case

James' sentence being reviewed

A spokesperson for Manitoba Justice says the Crown is reviewing the prison sentence handed to disgraced junior hockey coach Graham James for sexual abuse.

The sentence sparked immediate outrage across the country from people who suggested it is too lenient. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Graham James
JOHN WOODS/THE CANADIAN PRESS

B.C. education dispute

Angry teachers mull job action

The teachers' union in British Columbia is asking its members if they want to break the law by mounting a strike to protest legislation that bans them from such job action. It's one of several options the union is offering 41,000 members during a vote on April 17 and 18. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Tories to drop axe on spending

Budget. Flaherty's plan expected to be toughest since Paul Martin's 1995 game-changer

The March 29 budget will mark the end of the spending and hiring sprees undertaken by Prime Minister Stephen Harper's government since 2006.

While the need to shrink government has always featured prominently in Conservative rhetoric, since taking power Harper's Conservatives have actually run up annual federal spending.

But this budget, which Harper has labelled an instrument of transformational change, is designed to move Ottawa away from the trend toward more public servants and increased government goodies.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

By the numbers

- In 2006, the Liberals left the incoming Conservative government a surplus of $13.7 billion.
- Since taking power the Tories have run up annual federal spending to $276 billion, an increase of nearly 30 per cent.
- Ottawa earmarked a total of $46 billion for its anti-recession campaign in 2009 and 2010, leading to a combined $101 billion federal budget deficit over two years.

Bridal train goes on, and on, and on, to set world record

Model Emma Dumitrescu, 17, wears the world's longest wedding dress train during a successful Guinness World Record attempt in Bucharest, Romania on Tuesday. The nearly three-kilometre long ivory train took 100 days to stitch. The previous record was 2.488 kilometres. VADIM GHIRDA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Orange. Shirts get pink slip

Fourteen employees at a Florida law firm are claiming they have been fired for wearing orange shirts.

The group all wear the shirts on pay-day Fridays because they go out to Happy Hour together after work, they told the Ft. Lauderdale Sun Sentinel.

The tradition had gone on for a few months before management at Elizabeth R. Wellborn fired them last Friday for being involved in a protest by wearing orange. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Riot. Two teens charged

Two 15-year-olds are among the 15 people arrested since last weekend's alcohol-fuelled St. Patrick's Day riot in London, Ont., police say.

Police said in a news release Thursday that investigators have laid numerous charges against the 15 alleged rioters, including mischief under $5,000, resisting arrest, public intoxication, assaulting police with a weapon and obstructing police. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Standoff with suspected terrorist leads to firefight

On Wednesday French police attempted to apprehend a suspect in the shooting at the Ozar Hatorah Jewish school. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Riot police set off explosions outside an apartment building early Thursday in an effort to force the surrender of a gunman who boasted of bringing France "to its knees" with an al-Qaida-linked terror spree that killed seven people.

As the standoff dragged into a second day, hundreds of heavily armed police, some in body armour, cordoned off the five-story building in Toulouse where the 24-year-old suspect, Mohamed Merah, had been holed up.

Just after midnight, three explosions were heard and orange flashes lit up the night sky near the building. An Interior Ministry official said the suspect had gone back on a previous pledge to turn himself in – and that police blew up the shutters outside the apartment window to pressure him to surrender.

Hours later two new blasts and a burst of gunfire were heard, though officials said no full-out assault was under way.

"It's not as simple as that. We are waiting," the Toulouse prosecutor, Michel Valet, told The Associated Press.

Authorities said the shooter, a French citizen of Algerian descent, had been to Afghanistan and Pakistan, where he claimed to have received training from al-Qaida.

They said he told negotiators he killed a rabbi and three young children at a Jewish school on Monday and three French paratroopers last week to avenge the deaths of Palestinian children and to protest the French army's involvement in Afghanistan, as well as a government ban last year on face-covering Islamic veils.

"He has no regrets, except not having more time to kill more people and he boasts that he has brought France to its knees," Paris Prosecutor Francois Molins told a news conference.

The standoff began when a police attempt at around 3 a.m. to detain Merah erupted into a firefight. Two police were wounded, triggering on-and-off negotiations with the suspect that lasted into the night.

As darkness fell, police cut electricity and gas to the building, then quietly closed in to wait out the suspect."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Family members react Wednesday during the funeral of the victims of Monday's shooting in Toulouse, France. SEBASTIAN SCHEINER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Alberta. Beekeeper hunts for missing colony

KATIE TURNER
Metro in Calgary

There's a lot of buzz in Sunalta, Alta., surrounding a colony of bees that may be missing.

Urban beekeeper Sharon Woodhouse says for the last two years, her yard has been home to a colony of honeybees. Her intention is to strengthen the honeybee population.

"There's been talk of the bee population declining and how important they are to our food sources and I just thought it was a really great thing to do," she said.

Late last summer, Woodhouse says she noticed the bee population was declining from the estimated 30,000 she believes were once in the hive.

Assuming part of the colony split because the hive was crowded, Woodhouse says she didn't think much of it until recently with the beginning of spring now here.

"My biggest fear was if somebody found the bees, say they had flown into a garage or if they were in a nook underneath the roof and started to build a home, that people would see it and get scared," she said.

Knowing honeybees usually have a five-kilometre radius, Woodhouse sent a note to her neighbours in Sunalta, near Calgary, through the community association and hopes if her colony is found she can pick it up rather than having someone exterminate them.

"I'm hoping around April they'll start to get a little bit more active as it warms up," she said. "Honey bees are not hunters, they're pollen gatherers.... They're absolute marvels of nature and I didn't want people to be frightened."

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An artist's rendering of the 78-storey Aura, now under construction at Yonge and Gerrard streets. CONTRIBUTED

Sky's the limit for developers

Condos. Downtown development a sign of global trend toward mega-tall buildings

Canderel's sleek new condo building sprouting from the ground at Yonge and Gerrard streets has a title that's just waiting to be toppled — Canada's tallest residential building.

When all 78 storeys are complete, Aura will tower 272 metres and — for a while at least — surpass everything in the city except the CN Tower and First Canadian Place. But when it comes to being biggest on the planet, Aura has quite a few floors to go.

If completed today, it would be No. 16 on the list of residential towers now dominating skylines that used to be almost the sole domain of iconic office towers.

Just over a decade ago, some 85 per cent of the tallest buildings boasted the names of some of the world's biggest brands — Chrysler and Sears — and were symbols of intense competition between cities such as Chicago and New York. But last year, for the first time in history, less than half of the top-100 tallest buildings were offices.

The rest were houses in the heavens that are stretching to such unthinkable heights, the Chicago-based Council on Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat has come up with a new phrase — mega tall — to describe the growing trend toward mixed-use buildings towering more than 600 metres.

"If you talk to architects, they say there are very few limits at this point in terms of how high a building can go," says Kevin Brass, spokesperson for the council.

The kilometre-high Kingdom Tower planned for Saudi Arabia is set to overtake the United Arab Emirates' Burj Khalifa as the tallest in the world, but "architects and engineers say they can go higher," says Brass. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Keystone XL

Oil execs running out of patience

American oil industry executives chided U.S. President Barack Obama on Wednesday on the eve of his visit to a small town in Oklahoma, where he's expected to urge speedy approval for the southern leg of TransCanada's Keystone XL pipeline.

"Approval of the entire Keystone XL pipeline should happen now — not after the election," the executives at several prominent oil and gas companies said in an open letter published Wednesday in The Oklahoman newspaper. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Sombre memorial for bus crash victims

Funeral. Belgium mourns for 28 killed, most of them children

King Albert II and thousands of mourners on Wednesday remembered the 28 victims of last week's bus crash in a Swiss tunnel during a memorial service centring on the 22 schoolchildren whose promise of youth was shattered by sudden death.

Under a sparkling sky, in Lommel, Belgium, soldiers took part in a solemn procession that carried 15 coffins into a 5,000-capacity hall. The brown casket contained the remains of a teacher, the 14 white ones held the bodies of children who were on the cusp of their teenage years.

The students and the teacher were from one of two schools in northern Belgium that shared a bus for a traditional "snow class" vacation in Switzerland. They were returning from that exuberant holiday on March 13 when tragedy struck. Their bus, carrying 52 people, slammed into a tunnel wall. In addition to the dead, 24 children were injured.

The cause of the crash remains under investigation.

A separate service will be held Thursday for the victims from the other school, in the town of Heverlee.

Three girls who were on the trip remain in Switzerland. They were badly injured, but they have regained consciousness and are out of immediate danger. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Loss

"Is there something worse than parents who lose what they love most?"

Peter Vanvelthoven
Mayor of Lommel, Belgium

Mourners watch a memorial service on a video screen outside an arena in Lommel, Belgium, on Wednesday. ERMINDO ARMINO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Somalia kidnapping

Hostage released but learns of husband's death

Somali pirates holding a British woman hostage for six months gave her medicine but did not tell Judith Tebbutt they had killed her husband during an attack on their Kenyan beach resort.

Pirates freed Tebbutt on Wednesday after reportedly being paid a ransom. Gunmen killed her husband, David Tebbutt, during the September kidnapping attack, but Tebbutt did not learn of the death for two more weeks.

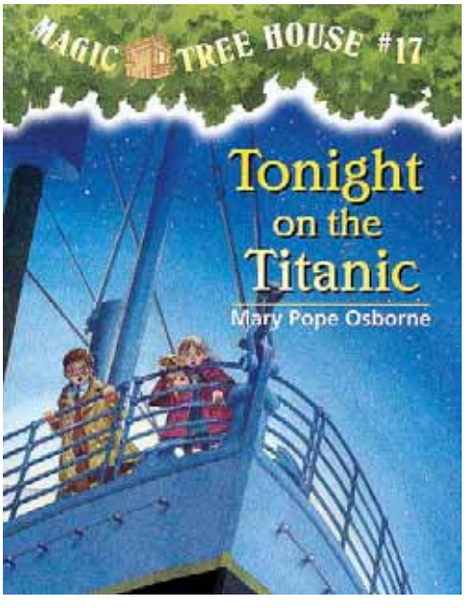
"I just assumed he was alive," Tebbutt said haltingly in a video broadcast by the BBC, adding that her son told her of the killing. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Unarmed teen killed

Rights groups demand arrest in shooting

Civil rights leaders in the U.S. pressured authorities to make an arrest in the case of an unarmed black teenager shot to death by a neighbourhood-watch captain after declaring victories in getting federal and state officials to investigate.

The case has become a nationwide sensation and ignited a furor against the police department of the Orlando suburb of Sanford, where 17-year-old Trayvon Martin was shot last month. It has prompted rallies around the state and a protest in Gov. Rick Scott's office Tuesday. U.S. Justice Department has opened a civil rights probe into the shooting. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Titanic tales for kids

In the lead-up to the 100th anniversary of the sinking of the Titanic, many parents, teachers and writers of children's books are balancing potentially scary details with more inspirational fare focused on survivors. Mary Pope Osborne's children's book, Tonight on the Titanic, is aimed toward 6- to 10-year-olds and features her kid characters Jack and his sister, Annie. CONTRIBUTED/RANDOM HOUSE BOOKS FOR YOUNG READERS

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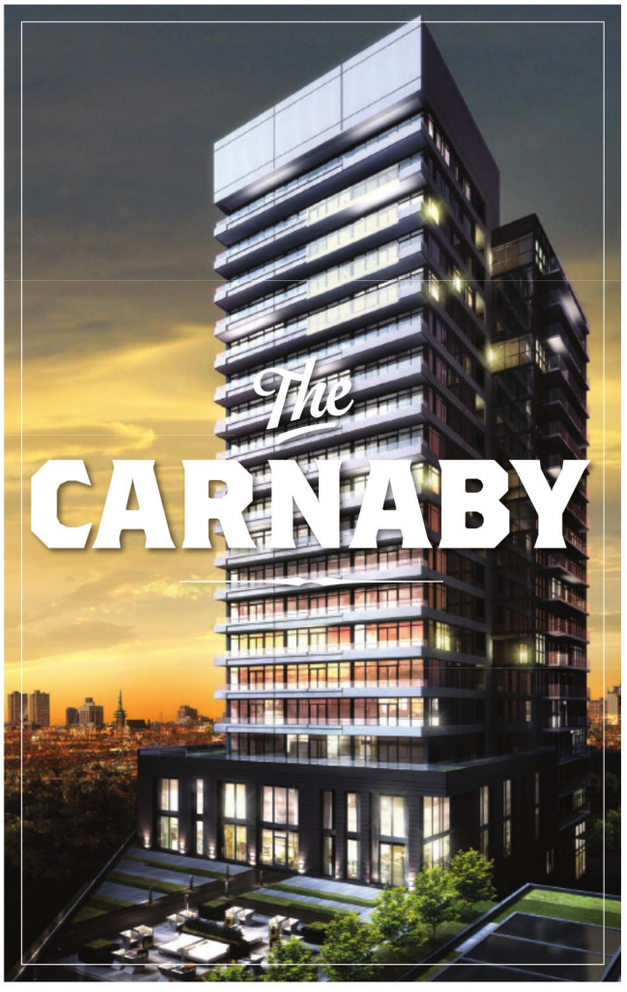

Hip just got a whole lot more mod. Like its London namesake, The Carnaby can be described as the bee's knees of style and all things sophisticated. A living space you're drawn to because it's right where you want to be – nestled amongst the indie-stores, laid back cafés, trendy boutiques and the oh so rad galleries of Queen West. Inspired living at its best, The Carnaby is the new bookend to Toronto's famous west end Art & Design District.

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Rendering is artist's impression.

Jason Russell, co-founder of a campaign to find Ugandan war criminal Joseph Kony, will remain in hospital for several weeks after being found parading naked in the street, his family said Wednesday. CONTRIBUTED/INVISIBLE CHILDREN

Kony director suffers from psychosis: Wife

Jason Russell. Symptoms of his condition, triggered by extreme stress, include hallucinations and strange speech

The director of a wildly popular video about brutal African warlord Joseph Kony has been diagnosed with what's called a brief reactive psychosis and is expected to stay in the hospital for weeks, his wife Danica said Wednesday.

Jason Russell was hospitalized last week after running through streets in his underwear, screaming incoherently and banging his fists on the pavement. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kony 2012

- **The video.** Jason Russell narrates the 30-minute video Kony 2012, viewed more than 84 million times on YouTube. In it, Russell talks to his young son, Gavin, about Kony and the Lord's Resistance Army.

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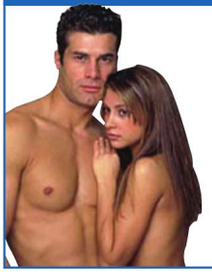

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Cancer claims life of man left to die on Everest

Mountaineer. Lincoln Hall was exposed to asbestos while doing construction work early in his life

Lincoln Hall reached the peak of the world's highest mountain but became gravely ill from oxygen deprivation during the descent. His guides helped him initially then left to save their own lives.

American guide Daniel Mazur, his two clients and a Sherpa guide were just two hours from the 29,035-foot peak on the morning of May 26 when they came across Hall, who had been left alone a day earlier.

"I was shocked to see a guy without gloves, hat, oxygen bottles or sleeping bag at sunrise at 28,200 feet height, just sitting up there," Mazur said.

Australian mountaineer Lincoln Hall
DEVENDRA W. SINGH/GETTY IMAGES

Mazur's team pulled Hall away from the slopes. He was taken to a clinic in Nepal's capital for treatment of a chest infection, fluid on his brain and frostbitten fingers.

He expressed no resentment about being left on the mountain, friend and spokesman Simon Balderstone said in Kathmandu at the time.

Balderstone confirmed his death at a Sydney, Australia, hospital, a year after Hall had been diagnosed with mesothelioma, a rare cancer of the lungs most often caused by asbestos. He is survived by his wife and two sons.

A foundation he helped establish, Australian Himalayan Foundation, raised money for schools in the Himalayas. Hall remained committed to that work until his death.

Hall was born in Canberra, Australia, and climbed many of the world's highest peaks. He wrote books and articles and had photos published in climbing magazines.

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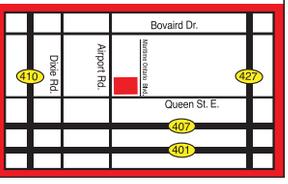


Air Canada woes concern travellers

Consumer confidence. Some passengers willing to pay more on other airlines to avoid potential service issues

Air Canada has work to do to regain the confidence of passengers following flight cancellations, unresolved labour disputes and the closure of its main repair firm, industry observers said Wednesday.

Jeffrey Bodnarok, who was travelling with his family of six, carefully checked the status of his flight to Punta Cana on Wednesday before making his way to Montreal's Trudeau International Airport.

Bodnarok said he was concerned about the flight after cancellations last weekend, due in part to pilots calling in sick, and this week's closure of aircraft maintenance firm Aveos Fleet Performance.

"I was more concerned that our flight was OK to leave today with what happened this week and everything is good for us," he said at the airport.

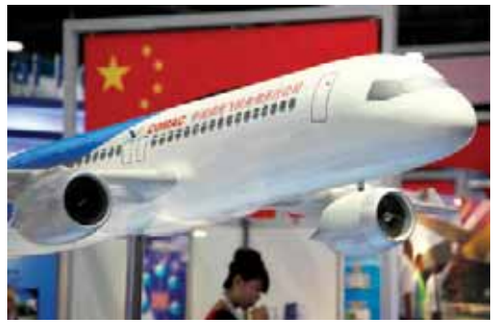
Air Canada has been plagued with labour troubles over the past year.

The airline and its pilots and mechanics have been engaged in a bitter contract feud that prompted the federal government to step in earlier this month. Ottawa has also had to intervene in previous labour disputes at the airline.

Travel agent Isabella Caporicci of NDG Travel in Montreal said some nervous passengers have shunned Canada's largest air carrier and switched to alternative airlines in order to avoid any disruption to their travel plans.

Some who view flying with Air Canada as "just too iffy" have even been willing to pay more or endure several airport connections for better service, Caporicci said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



New partnership takes flight

A model of a commercial C919 jumbo jet is displayed at the Asian Aerospace International Expo in Hong Kong in 2009. Bombardier signed an agreement Wednesday to collaborate on forthcoming projects with China's COMAC aircraft manufacturer. VINCENT YU/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Market Moment

DOLLAR
100.78¢ US
(-0.05¢)

TSX 12,436.5.7 (+5.79)

OIL $107.27 US (+$1.20)

GOLD $1,651.10 US (+$3.30)

Natural gas: $2.33 US (-0.3¢)
Dow Jones: 13,124.6 (-45.6)

Employment

Report: Promise of pipeline job boom exaggerated

Enbridge's proposed $5.5-billion Northern Gateway Pipeline won't create nearly as many jobs as the company has proposed, says a new report by the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives. The report argues that the pipeline will create 1,850 construction jobs per year for three years and a "handful of permanent new jobs" when complete. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Keystone XL

Obama to call for fast-tracking of southern leg

U.S. President Barack Obama is ordering federal agencies to expedite the approval process for the southern leg of TransCanada's Keystone XL pipeline.

The president is expected to direct the agencies to fast-track the pipeline on Thursday in Cushing, Okla., where there's a glut of Midwest oil that can't easily get to refineries on the Gulf of Mexico. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Board battle

Yahoo investor pushes for own board members

One of Yahoo's major investors is urging shareholders to vote its four nominees on to the Internet company's board, launching a potentially nasty fight to transform its direction.

Hedge fund Third Point LLC, which has a 5.8 per cent stake in Sunnyvale, Calif.-based Yahoo, said it thinks the struggling company would fare better if its representatives were in the boardroom helping overhaul Yahoo.

Third Point's letter, released in a regulatory filing Wednesday, comes a week after the hedge fund said it would launch a campaign to get its four nominees on the board if the Yahoo's management didn't accept them.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

British budget

U.K. to cut top income tax rate

Britain's finance minister has cut the rate of income tax for the country's wealthiest citizens but imposed a raft of measures to prevent tax avoidance and a hefty new charge on expensive property sales in an attempt to spread the burden of austerity across the U.K's taxpayers.

In his annual budget statement Wednesday, George Osborne said he was cutting the top rate from 50 per cent to 45 per cent by April next year on incomes over $239,000 US a year.

Osborne sought to deflect criticism that the coalition government was being soft on the wealthy by announcing a big hike in the level at which Britons start paying tax.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mad Men take stock in Manhattan

Actor Jon Hamm, centre, is flanked by actress January Jones and Matthew Weiner, creator of hit television series Mad Men, as he takes a photo with his cellphone during opening bell ceremonies at the New York Stock Exchange on Wednesday. The show is scheduled to premiere its new season this Sunday. RICHARD DREW/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Twitter turns six with over 100 million users

Tech trends. Twitter's influence in society and the media has grown since its launch six years ago

Twitter is now six years away from that first 140 characters-or-less tweet from co-founder Jack Dorsey: "Just setting up my twttr."

Six years ago, the company had just five employees. Now there are more than 800 and they aim to have 1,000 by the end of the year.

It took three years, two months and one day to reach a billion tweets on the site. In 2011, 60 billion tweets were sent out.

Twitter has grown over the years to more than 100 million users right now (though Facebook has more than 800 million).

The social network has wormed its way into mainstream society and the media.

Late NDP leader Jack Layton made his infamous reference to "Hashtag Fail" during one of the election debates. People no longer just watch live television, they participate online, tweeting up a storm during events like the Grammys and the Superbowl.

It's taken us to the final frontier, with the first tweet from space. It even allowed one man to inadvertently live-blog the raid on Osama bin Laden's compound.

Along with Facebook, it even became a symbol of a new generation during the Arab Spring uprising.

But for all that, Twitter hasn't changed human nature, it has just made it easier to establish the connections we naturally want to make, says Anatoliy Gruzd, director of the Social Media Lab at Dalhousie University.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Network know-how

Six ways Twitter has changed the way businesses work:

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- Interaction with customers
- Power of word of mouth
- Evaluating employees
- Tracking competition
- Job searches

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PUT AN END TO THE ETIQUETTE ARGUMENT

HE SAYS...
John Mazerolle
metronews.ca/hesays

Since Adam and Eve first realized they should slap on a fig leaf if they wanted to appear in children's picture books, humanity has realized the importance of proper manners.

I feel strongly about all things etiquette, which is why I have written the following advice Q&A — a feat never attempted before by a columnist at my skill level.

Q: Should letter writers call you Mr. Manners or Ed Etiquette or what?

- Larry Letterwriter

A: Dear Larry: The works of Emily Post tell us that the proper way to begin a letter to a newspaper columnist include, "Your Excellency," "You sexy thing" and "You may have already won $10 million!"

Q: We have new friends we like and we want to let them know we really appreciate their friendship. If I invite them over, how do I make them feel privileged to be there?

- Chipper & Perky Smith

From the expert:

"As you have new friends, I consider the question outside my expertise. I therefore asked a guy on the sidewalk, who said, 'Verbal re-enforcement is key.' "

A: Dear Chipper and Perky: As you have new friends, I consider the question outside my expertise. I therefore asked a guy on the sidewalk, who said, "Verbal re-enforcement is key." Constantly telling your guests, "You're privileged to be here, you know," in a forceful tone will make a lasting impression.

Q: Where should I put the spoon after dessert? If it's served on a plate with a low rim, do I leave it inside the plate or on the side?

- Cornelius Hiram Flowerbottom III, Esq.

A: Dear Mr. Flowerbottom III, Esq.: I have an excellent suggestion of where you should stick your spoon. Judging from your question, however, I have reason to believe you followed that advice many years ago.

Q: I'm dating one of those ultra-cooks who demands you cut cabbage at the proper angle, constantly serves the internal organs of some creature or other and cuts radish rosettes with a speed and efficiency that makes you wonder how she obtained said internal organs. Recently, we've been arguing because she thinks I'm a slob and I think she's right but don't care. She's been getting picky about things like the proper utensil (I think she made up the "salad spoon"). Anyway, things aren't going well and I still haven't made any headway with her younger sister, so what do I do to clear things up?

- Between a rock and a hot plate

A: Dear Between: The important thing to remember here is that the steak knife — placed just to the right of the napkin — is the sharpest knife. Do what you will.

Q: What's the proper way to say goodbye to people you've strung along under the pretense of giving advice when you were really only filling space in a newspaper column for money?

A: So long, suckers.

Your most important etiquette lesson is that your cutlery has multiple functions.
ISTOCK

Hanging by a thread

FRANCOIS MORI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS PHOTOS

Expressive

Getting 'hung up' in artistic work

Suspended by wires, Chinese artist Li Wei performs in the sky at La Villette in Paris on Tuesday. Li Wei, born in 1970, in Hubei, China, is a contemporary artist from Beijing. His work often depicts him in gravity-defying situations.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Captivating

Some of his stunts are hair-raising

The artist has produced several self-portraits that involve his face reflected in mirrors in public places, photographs of himself crashing into walls and sidewalks, and many other potentially risky situations, according to the Daily Mail website.

METRO

Particularity

Artists take work to new heights

The artists' scene in China today is moving away from sculptures and paintings to a more performance-based art, using photography and video, according to the Asian Art Coordinating Council. Many forward-thinking artists now use their body as a canvas.

METRO

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Hunting purely for sport is:

50% OK, IF THAT'S YOUR THING

50% CRUEL AND UNNECESSARY

Twitter

@kristianDavid: if we're going with the 'subways moves faster than LRT' argument, should we use it for bikelanes too? bikes move faster through traffic

@GriffHowe: Screw future financing! Build the LRTs now then start funding plans for subways after. Transit Now! #TOcouncil #TOpoli

@jackshope: Memo to Doug Ford: ignorance and condescention is not a winning combination. #topoli #tocouncil #ttc

@Dont_JoeCool: Kony lives in Africa Trayvon LIVED in Florida What's closer? #StopHateCrimes #StopPolice-Brutality

@chloe_charles: @CMW2012 shenanigans have begun!

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FROM MOZILLA VOLUNTEER TO SOFTWARE DEVELOPER

It pays to volunteer for Mozilla — just ask **Lukas Blakk**.

Lukas was months away from completing his degree in Software Development at Seneca when the creators behind the popular web browser Firefox hired him. He now works as a release engineer for the company, where he performs a wide range of software work on Firefox, including quality testing and writing code.

"Being able to work on real code, with real developers has been invaluable," says Lukas. "I came to Seneca to start a new career as soon as school is done, and thanks to the College's partnership with Mozilla I've actually started it while still in school."

Where most computer science departments or schools only mention free and open source software, Seneca offers a hands-on introduction in partnership with companies in the industry.

"Our students at the School of Information and Communications Technology get to work on actual open source projects," says Chris Tyler, one of the professors involved in the teaching and development of open source at Seneca. "They get valuable hands-on experience as testers, build engineers and developers."

Since 1998, the School has been teaching open source development in its degree and diploma programs.

During a single semester students can be working on several industry-related projects. In fact, most recently, Seneca students and faculty lent their talents to Raspberry Pi — a new fully functional computer set to sell for less than $40, which features software built and adapted at the College.

"For our students it's exciting to work on something that's real code that's going to be used by hundreds of thousands of people," Chris says.

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SCENE

On the web

Zsa Zsa Gabor's care subject of L.A. court case after daughter requests conservatorship

Scene in brief

Wilde to run for cancer

Nine years ago, actress Olivia Wilde ran, or rather walked, in the EIF Revlon Run/Walk. In May, she will host the event that supports women's cancer research with fellow first-time ambassador Emma Stone. The event is one of the largest single-day fundraisers in the U.S.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Canadian documents the rise of China's rock scene in book

Red Rock. After a decade immersed in China's music scene, Jon Campbell puts the significance of the rock movement in print

BACKSTAGE PASS
Ian Gormerly
scene@metronews.ca

When Jon Campbell moved to China in 2000, he had few expectations for the move beyond furthering his education in an exotic locale. "What else are you going to do with a masters in Chinese studies?," he says.

But through a chance encounter in a guitar shop, he quickly found himself behind a drum kit, knee deep in the country's fledgling yaogun scene, the Chinese equivalent of our own underground rock 'n' roll. He eventually chronicled its rise in the new book, Red Rock: the Long Strange March of Chinese Rock & Roll which launches at the Gladstone this weekend.

During his decade-long stay, Campbell occupied all manner of positions within the yaogun community — booking agent, tour manager and even music journalist. But while the scene flew headfirst into the unknown, he felt its history was falling by the wayside. "There's been a lack of taking it seriously because of the cult of celebrity which is so much more in China," he says. "It's judging rather than introducing and explaining the music."

Chinese rock music's earliest incarnations date back to the early '70s and by the early '90s, hair metal was all the rage. But as the decade wore on, the scene lurched forward, briefly flirting with American punk before its current incarnation as an Eastern mirror to our modern indie rock.

Despite having a Chinese publisher, Red Rock has yet to be translated into Chinese due to concerns over Chinese government censorship. But Campbell is hopeful that will soon change.

"There's a serious lack of understanding of what's gone on, societally, politically, historically," he says.

Hopefully Chinese rock fans can learn something about their own country through the music. "I hope it does the same thing in the West. We need to learn about China. We don't have a clue and we ought to have one."

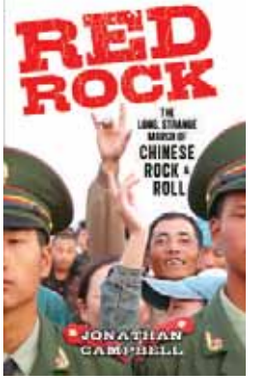
Red Rock: the Long Strange March of Chinese Rock & Roll. March 24. 1 p.m. Gladstone Hotel, 1214 Queen Street West. $5 or free with book purchase.

Extras

- Appearing with Campbell are a handful of contemporary figures from China's diverse yaogun scene. Al Di, an enthusiastic and irreverent Chinese music journalist now based in Vancouver, has been described as Chinese Nardwuar, the Human Serviette. He'll be leading the afternoon's discussion with Campbell and musician and former MTV China VJ Helen Feng. Her band, Nova Heart, a dance-infused rock group, along with modern Chinese folk crew Shanren both perform at the launch. You can also catch both bands tonight as part of Canadian Music Week. Check canadianmusicfest.com for venues and show times.

Midi Music Festival in Zhenjiang, China. SUPPLIED/JON CAMPBELL

Jon Campbell chronicles the rise of Chinese rock in his new book. SUPPLIED



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Aiming to Touch a global audience

Kiefer Sutherland.
New show centres on communication, and they're trying to reach viewers like never before

Touch hero Jake Bohm is obsessed with numbers, and in a voice-over on this week's premiere episode, the otherwise mute 11-year-old numerologist shares an interesting statistic, "Today the average person will say 2,250 words to 7.4 other individuals."

An average person, sure. But not Kiefer Sutherland in recent weeks.

Sutherland (who plays Jake's devoted father, Martin) has lately been a chatterbox, talking up his show all over the world.

"I'm like the brainy student who blows the curve for the rest of the class," he says with a laugh. "I've met a lot of folks."

It's Monday, the morning after a Touch world-premiere screening in Manhattan, which came on the winged heels of a global blitz that took Sutherland to London, Berlin, Madrid and Moscow. In a couple of hours, he'll be back on a plane returning to L.A., where, with the publicity campaign now just about over, he'll resume shooting Touch full-time.

But right now, he's got a few more words to voice about the show (which debuts Thursday on Global).

For instance, how the universal focus of Touch (created by Tim Kring, architect of the likewise far-flung series Heroes) is reflected in its launch strategy. It's premiering in synch with the U.S. market in more than 100 other countries. Convening a global TV audience that way is unprecedented for a weekly drama series.

"If Touch can be the conduit for a conversation between 150 million people worldwide on a website — talking about things they have in common, as opposed to their differences — that would be amazing," muses Sutherland.

But as Touch has gotten under way, it has touched on Sutherland's memories of his first season doing 24, the action-intrigue show where he played intrepid counter-terrorist Jack Bauer for eight seasons starting in 2001.

"I'd forgotten what it was like to build the framework of a new show," he says. "It's the most exciting part of doing a show, but it's also the most difficult. The pilot script for Touch was beautiful, but if it isn't fully realized as a series, I'll feel culpable. So there's a kind of panic I had forgotten about since we started 24."

The biggest challenge, says Sutherland, is crafting the on-screen relationship between widowed father Martin and his son.

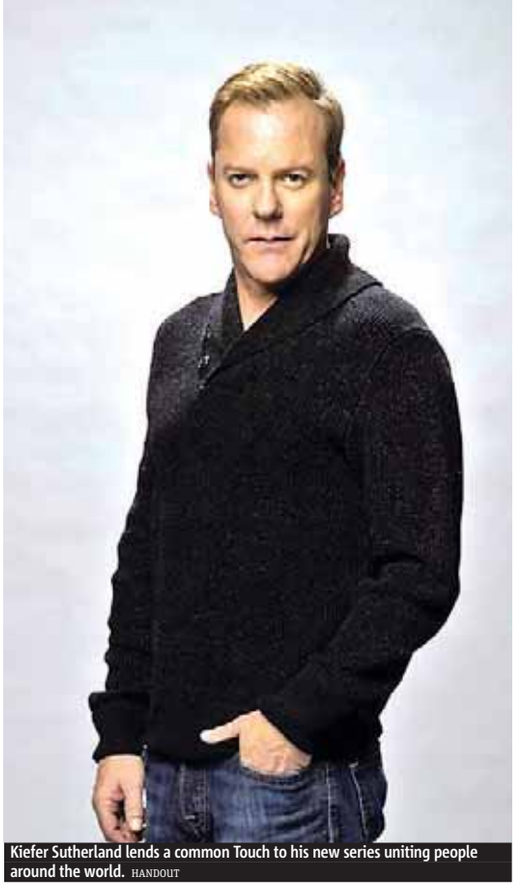
No wonder. Jake is an emotionally challenged child who never speaks and recoils from any physical contact, even with his dad.

Yet, in his seemingly isolated state, Jake is able to discern mathematical relationships between divergent people around the world (a "giant mosaic of patterns and ratios... hidden in plain sight," as he puts it) that help bring those people together in beneficial ways.

It falls to Martin to puzzle out Jake's numerical cues and then follow through with the necessary legwork. Meanwhile, he struggles to forge a human connection with his son.

"You have to make this relationship relatable to viewers," says Sutherland. "When I read the script, I identified with it hugely: There was a time with my daughter between her 12th and 13th birthdays when, literally, there wasn't a question I asked her that she didn't answer with a single word. I think all parents have communications issues with their children."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

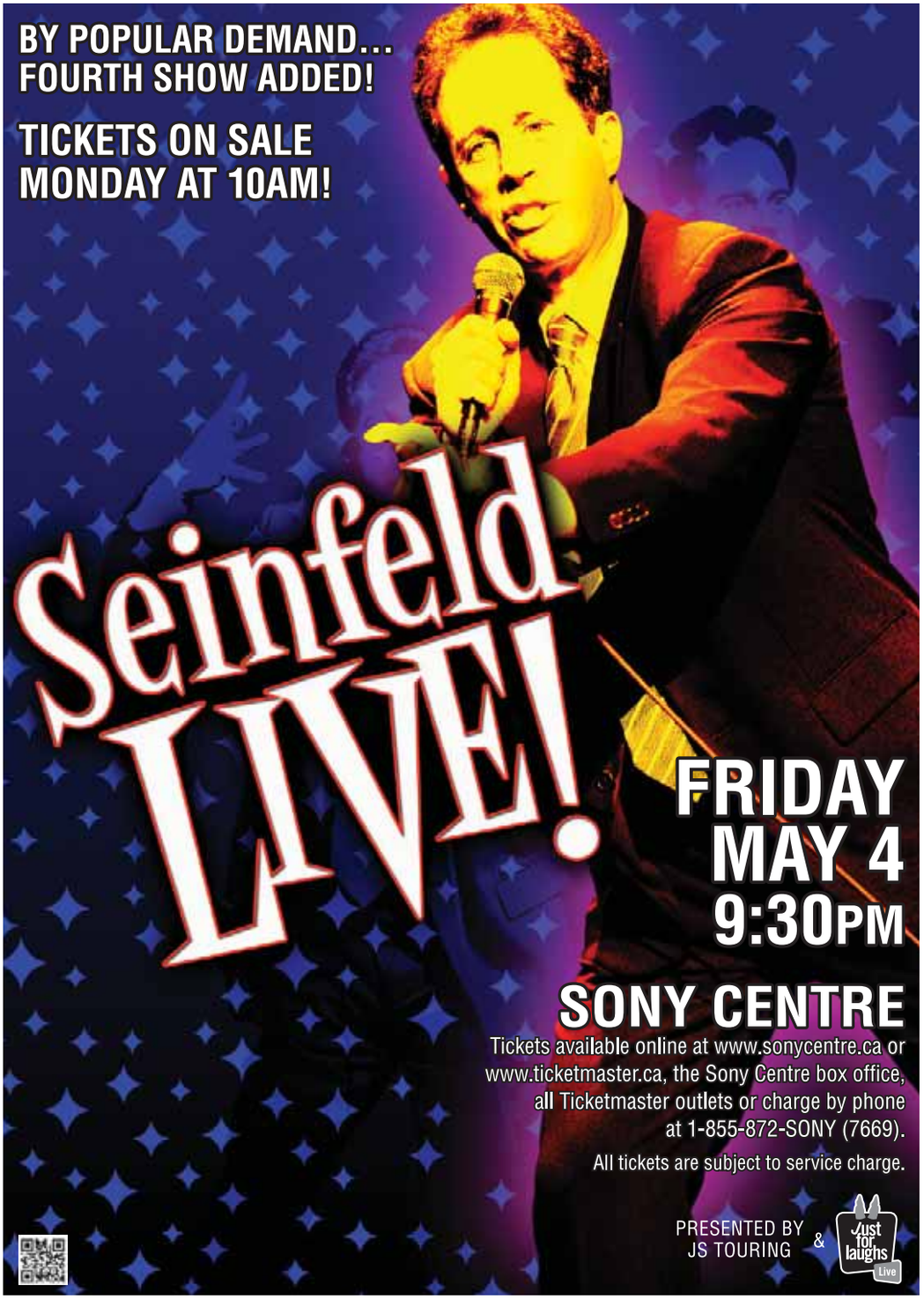


Kiefer Sutherland lends a common Touch to his new series uniting people around the world. HANDOUT

Acting with child

As an experienced actor, Sutherland is faced with a new challenge.

- **New challenge.** Of course, there's an associated challenge for Sutherland. At age 45, he's a veteran actor with a hit TV series and dozens of film roles to his credit. But now he must share scenes with a child who has no lines to volley back to him, and who displays little physical response to anything.



From the boardroom to the gym locker-room

Going undercover at her company. Goodlife CEO gets a reminder of what makes the business tick

ANGELA MULLINS
scene@metronews.ca

When Jane Riddell jumped aboard the Goodlife Fitness ship, the London-based company had one storefront and she was responsible for everything from teaching classes to cleaning.

Now, 30 years later, Riddell is second-in-command of what's become Canada's largest fitness company, with 10,000 employees, 300 clubs and nearly 1 million members.

Seeing what that growth has meant on the frontlines is one of the main things that had Riddell practically lunging at a chance to star in an episode of Undercover Boss Canada.

"When we were a small company, it was all about trust, integrity and caring," said Riddell, 57.

"We have seven core values that are very important to us. I wanted to find out if they were still (being played out)."

After receiving a makeover and assuming a new name — Donna Bright — Riddell spent part of December and January working incognito at Goodlife clubs across the country.

She did a bit of everything, from selling memberships to sitting-in on personal training sessions. And, Riddell admits, it wasn't all pretty.

In fact, the first few minutes of Riddell's episode are the equivalent of a "train wreck" — some staff haven't shown up for work, a notice alerts members that locker-room showers are either "freezing cold" or "scalding hot" and the water fountains are broken.

"If I was a member, I would be upset. Members are paying for things that should work," Riddell says in the episode.

"It's just utterly shocking to me."

While Goodlife has for the past two years been placing an extra emphasis on talking face-to-face with employees, there's no real substitute for first-hand experience, Riddell said.

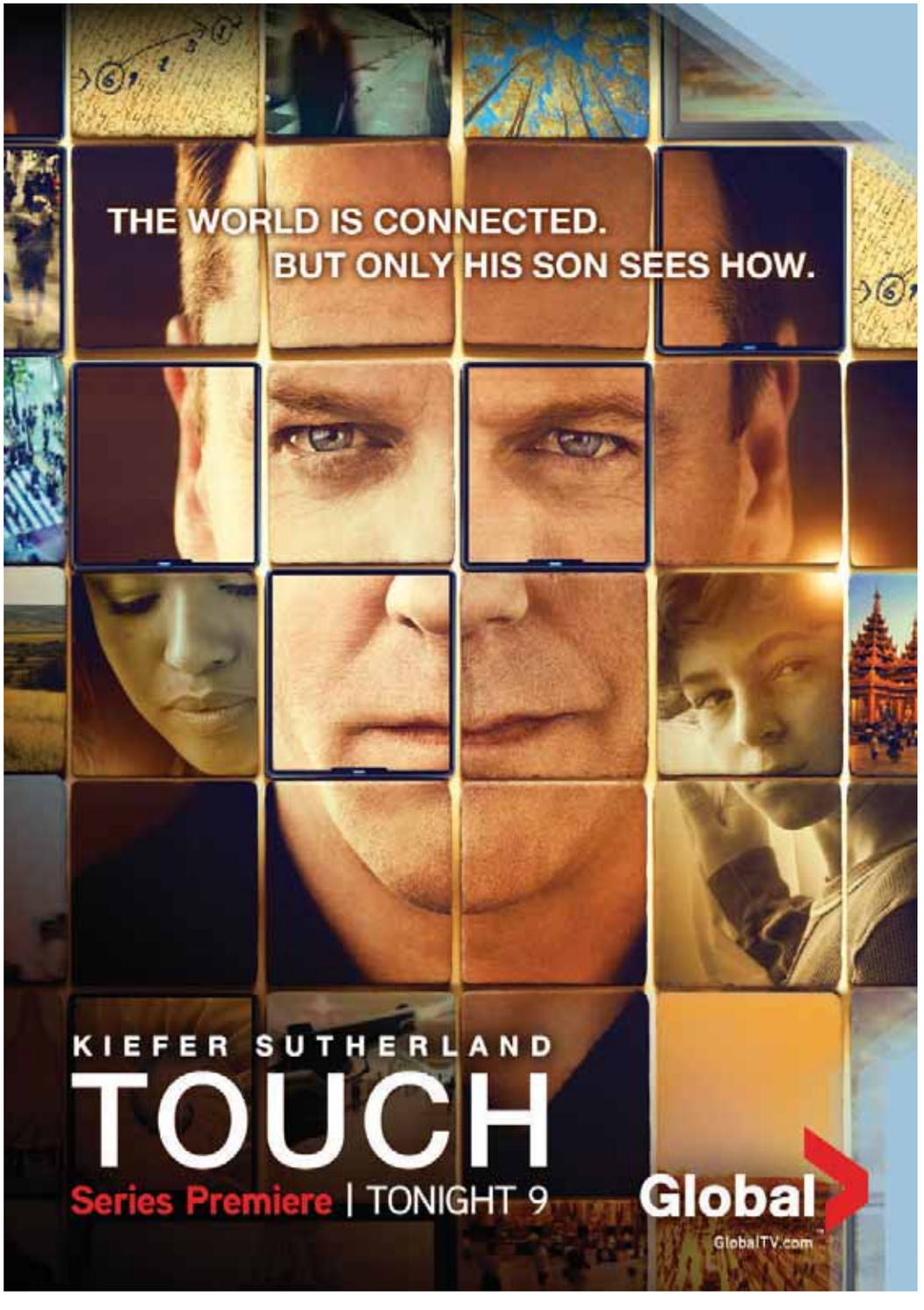
"Even though people are telling you what their work experience is like, you don't really get it until you're there watching it," Riddell told Metro.

"The biggest surprise was how complicated our business has gotten. We need to get back to basics and focus on members."

Undercover

Where can you see it?

- **Upcoming show.** Goodlife Fitness Chief Operating Officer Jane Riddell will be featured on Undercover Boss Canada Thursday on the W Network.



Jane Riddell went undercover at Goodlife to investigate the ins and outs of the business. HANDOUT

Online movies

Yahoo making moves in movies

CSI creator Anthony Zuiker is making a movie destined for the small screen. The producer plans to debut the as-yet-unfinished feature film, Cybergeddon, on Yahoo in installments sometime this fall. His latest foray into online storytelling follows his partnership on a horror series for YouTube.

It also marks Yahoo's second stab at tapping Hollywood talent to create original online video.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Reality TV

Wealthy Barber added to the Den

Wealthy Barber author David Chilton is venturing into the Dragons' Den.

The author of the personal finance books is joining the CBC TV show. He'll judge new business proposals from Canadian entrepreneurs seeking help from the Dragons.

He joins Internet mogul Bruce Croxon, marketing maven Arlene Dickinson, investment guru Kevin O'Leary and franchise baron Jim Treliving.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Bombs at the box office

Many had high hopes for Disney's John Carter, an epic space western directed by Pixar legend Andrew Stanton. But, although the movie was only released a few weeks ago, the company has already admitted their failure: The movie will generate an operating loss of $200 million from production and marketing costs. Sadly, John Carter will go down in history as a major flop. Here are other "memorable" films that are only known for bombing the box office.

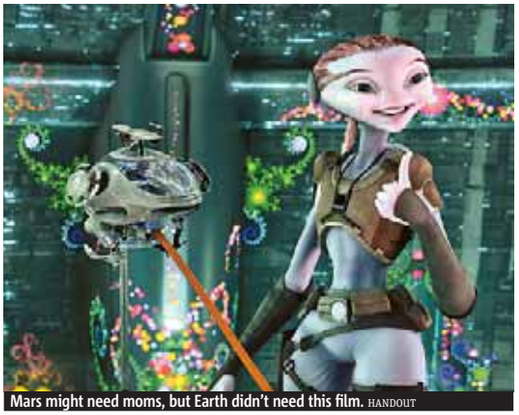
METRO

John Carter's flop at the box office ranks among the biggest in history. HANDOUT

John Carter

- **Walt Disney Pictures, 2012.** Disney said John Carter has brought in about $184 million in ticket sales worldwide so far. But ticket sales are split roughly in half with theatre owners. The movie's production budget is estimated to be about $250 million with about $100 million more spent on marketing. Disney said the loss on John Carter will cause its studio to lose $80 million to $120 million for the quarter.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Mars might need moms, but Earth didn't need this film. HANDOUT

Mars Needs Moms

- **Walt Disney Pictures, 2011.** Bad news for Disney: Earth didn't need Moms. Not only is the movie 37 per cent rotten and has a weak 49 out of 100 score on Metacritic, it only grossed $40 million worldwide of its $175 million budget. It opened on over 3,000 screens, so it had all the chances it could to be a success — well, except for a decent plot.

Cutthroat Island

- **Carolco Pictures, 1995.** This pirate-themed action film starring Geena Davis and Frank Langella cost $115 million to make, but only raked in a paltry $18.5 million worldwide. Adjusting for inflation, that's a loss of over $147.2 million. Ouch. It also previously held the Guinness World Record for Largest Box Office Loss. Double ouch.

Even the sex appeal of Penelope Cruz and Matthew McConaughey couldn't save Sahara from flopping at the box office. HANDOUT

Sahara

- **Paramount Pictures, 2005.** Even if your film stars two international sex symbols, Matthew McConaughey and Penelope Cruz, you can still go wrong. Paramount paid $241 million to get Sahara in theatres. Sadly, the reward was not great: It lost $121.7 million. McConaughey had said that the movie was supposed to have a sequel, but the poor box office showing prevented that.

The Alamo

- **Touchstone Pictures, 2004.** There were many things not going for this film when it was released, including going up against The Passion of the Christ, poor reviews and a ton of inaccuracies that angered historians. It's no surprise then that the film only grossed $25.8 million worldwide, and 87 per cent of that came from the U.S. audience. Apparently, no one remembered The Alamo.

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Choreographer wasn't out to shock with Minaj routine

Controversy. Canada's choreography master Laurieann Gibson talks about infamous Grammy performance

It was Canadian choreographer Laurieann Gibson who orchestrated Nicki Minaj's Grammy performance last month, which — not surprisingly — sparked controversy with its mix of religious iconography, sexual suggestiveness and a mock exorcism.

But Gibson, who has worked closely with the likes of Lady Gaga and Katy Perry, insists she was surprised by the backlash.

"It never felt risky — I wouldn't do risky — I think the only risky part of it was making sure Nicki was prepared to pull off a performance with that many levels. It was her first really big performance and I wanted to be in control of it," Gibson said Tuesday while in Toronto to shoot the upcoming Global series Canada Sings, in which she'll appear as a judge.

Laurieann Gibson says she was surprised at the backlash from Nicki Minaj's Grammy performance.
TOM UHLMAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

According to Gibson, it wasn't her idea to go with the religious theme. Minaj, she said, wanted to play with the idea of exorcising her fictional alter ego, which she calls Roman Zolanski, during the performance of songs Roman's Revenge and Roman Holiday.

"I was like, 'Oh brother,'" Gibson said of her initial reaction to the concept. "Then I was just very inspired by the theatrical ability (of the songs), with the Vatican, and The Borgias, which is one of my favourite shows."

Some viewers said they were downright offended by the performance, including the Catholic League. "What I say is my (art) is just a mirror, it's an image, and if art reflects this other demonic reaction of hatred and confusion then I say, 'My God, you might want to look in the mirror,'" said Gibson.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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the Bay

Gere would like to forget Pretty Woman

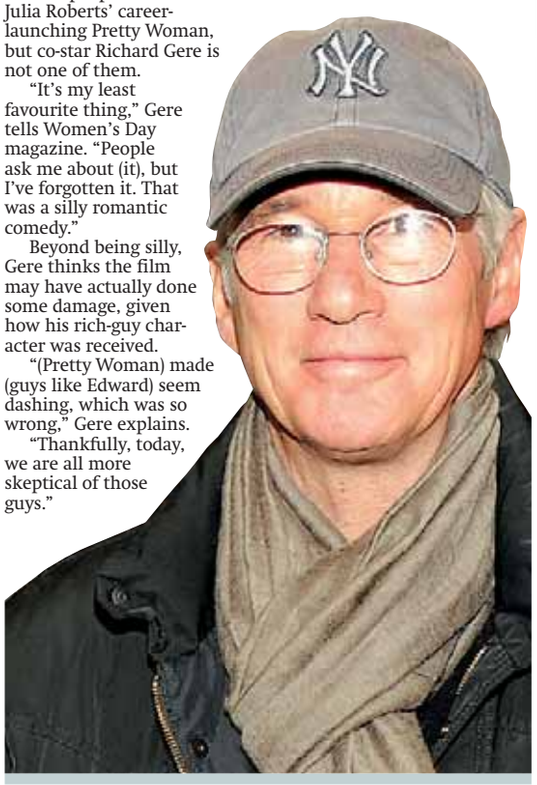
A lot of people still love Julia Roberts' career-launching Pretty Woman, but co-star Richard Gere is not one of them.

"It's my least favourite thing," Gere tells Women's Day magazine. "People ask me about (it), but I've forgotten it. That was a silly romantic comedy."

Beyond being silly, Gere thinks the film may have actually done some damage, given how his rich-guy character was received.

"(Pretty Woman) made (guys like Edward) seem dashing, which was so wrong," Gere explains.

"Thankfully, today, we are all more skeptical of those guys."



Depp and Olson: What?!

According to In Touch magazine, Johnny Depp was "hunkered down" in Ashley Olson's apartment for 24 hours in February.

"It was quiet in her apartment, like it was just the two of them in there," an insider recalls. "It didn't seem like it was just a visit between friends."

Whatever they were up to during their overnighter, it certainly left Johnny exhausted. When the star finally left the next day, "he looked like he was out of it," an onlooker said.

Johnny Depp look out of it? You don't say!

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word

What's the situation with The Situation?

THE WORD
Dorothy Robinson
scene@metronews.ca

Michael "The Situation" Sorrentino
GETTY IMAGES

There's something fishy going on with Michael "The Situation" Sorrentino, and it's not what you think (I know you're thinking "venereal disease," you dirty, dirty reader, you).

Nope. He's in rehab — but the reasons why are very murky.

Apparently, the Jersey Shore star became "dependent on prescription pills to counter-act his hard partying lifestyle, which included illegal substances. Mike was in a vicious cycle of not sleeping because of the illegal substances that he was taking, so he began using prescription pills to help him sleep," a source told RadarOnline.

"Mike would refer to the prescription pills as 'downers.' The good news is that he was the one that wanted to get help and checked into rehab. Hopefully with the proper treatment, Mike will be able to lead a sober life."

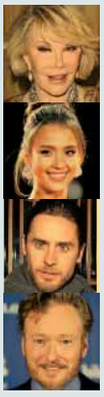
But his representative has denied all of this, issuing the classic "he's suffering from exhaustion" statement: "He is not in rehab for substance abuse. He has spent the last several weeks at an undisclosed location for much needed rest and recuperation after his extensive production and appearance schedule."

As for Sorrentino, he tweeted Tuesday night: "Don't believe everything you read or hear."

Now, I know I'm naive about how these things work. But if he is indeed in rehab for substance abuse, doesn't that mean he probably shouldn't be partying so hard when Jersey Shore goes back for filming the just-announced sixth season? With Snookie not drinking because of her pregnancy and The Situation refraining from "hard partying" because of his demons, what is to become of a show that is completely based around its characters getting wasted?

Jeez. Next thing you know, they're going to start using sunblock.

Twitter



@Joan_Rivers
So depressing. I can't believe I turned 78. I don't feel 76. I guess we all turn 74 eventually. Oh well, 72 is just a number...

@jessicaalba
Coffee please

@jaredleto
I love a nice cool rainy day. You?

@ConanOBrien
At some point, I'm going to have to tell my kids they're not adopted. They'll be crushed.

Reese Witherspoon expecting baby No. 3?

Reese Witherspoon

Reese Witherspoon is reportedly pregnant with her third child — and first with husband Jim Toth, according to Us Weekly.

"Reese is right around 12 weeks," a source explains, adding that Witherspoon is "not planning to announce it."

But it's all said to be part of the plan for the couple, who tied the knot last year.

"Jim and Reese have been trying to get pregnant," a source says.

"The timing is right. She's so happy."

Witherspoon also has a 12-year-old daughter, Ava, and an 8-year-old son, Deacon, with ex-husband Ryan Phillippe.

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TOYOTA PRIUS V

GROWING GREEN FAMILIES

TOYOTA PRIUS FAMILY EXPANDS TO THREE, INCLUDING THE V

For several years, it seems that the big news for Toyota has always revolved around the Prius ... and why not. Over its decade on sale in three different versions, it has proven to be one of the most practical and cleanest ways so far to significantly reduce emissions and fuel use.

The 2012 Prius family is expanded to three with a plug-in hybrid version (PHEV) and a larger wagon that's aimed at growing "green" families, dubbed Prius v. All three use the 98-horsepower, 1.8-litre four-cylinder engine teamed with a 27-kilowatt electric motor to produce 134 horsepower. The plug-in (PHEV) uses a larger and more powerful pack of lithium-ion batteries for an estimated 25 kilometres on electricity alone at speeds up 100 km/h.

That's not a huge amount compared to the much longer ranges claimed by the Nissan Leaf electric vehicle (about 160 kilometres) and Chevrolet Volt range-extended electric (65 kilometres in electric mode), but the smaller pack allows a full charge in only three hours using a household plug or half that with a 220-volt outlet. The really good part is that once the battery is drained, the car still acts like a regular Prius, meaning an average fuel-economy rating of about 4.0 l/100 km.

Unfortunately, the PHEV gains about 55 kilograms in the conversion, and will likely cost a fair chunk more than the plain Prius's $29,300 (2011) price tag. Expect the expanded Prius v to sit somewhere in between.

NEWS FOR 2012

- Plug-in Prius hybrid as well as the larger Prius v added.
- New, but not radically different Yaris and Camry models.
- Sienna minivan coasting after a full-on redesign for 2011.

CARRYOVER: Avalon; Corolla; Matrix; Sienna; Venza.
GONE: None.

Along that line, the redesigned two- and four-passenger door Yaris hatchbacks have more passenger and cargo volume. The more prominent nose features a larger air intake and angular headlight pods, while the door panels have sharp creases extending back to the taillights.

Toyota is sticking with the familiar 106-horsepower, 1.5-litre engine and five-speed manual transmission. The optional four-speed automatic option is lighter and has reduced friction, but its impact on fuel economy in negligible. Taken as a whole, it would seem the Yaris didn't require big changes and merely evolved, which is certainly the case for the new 2012 Camry sedan.

The Camry's oh-so-subtle changes include a pointier front end, chiselled front fenders and an accent crease extending across the doors and fenders. Toyota claims there is now slightly more passenger space resulting from cabin-layout adjustments. Inside, the organically shaped dashboard presents a layered appearance and buyers can now choose from four different upholstery finishes, depending on the model.

Revisions to the front and rear suspension are designed to keep the Camry more stable in a straight line, sharpen steering response and improve ride comfort. Very little has changed under the hood, although Toyota now rates the standard-issue 178-horsepower, 2.5-litre four-cylinder at 8.2 l/100 km in the city and 5.6 highway, improved from 9.0/6.0 for 2011.

– wheelbase media.com

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INCLUDING DESTINATION

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3

LIFE

On the Web

Top CFDA fashion prizes going to Johnny Depp, Tommy Hilfiger and maybe Olsens.

Yay or nay?

Hipster babies

Yay

- Your kid will be the trendiest on the playground.
- Your child will learn the art of self-expression early.

Nay

- Strangers on the street will dismiss your family as hipster clichés.
- You could blow the baby's college fund on clothes she'll outgrow in a matter of weeks.

Imagine, a little Snooki

Oh baby! In honour of Hollywood's latest baby boom, we've come up with some predictions for what the round of expecting celebs' might dress their offspring in

KENYA HUNT
Metro World News in London

So far, 2012 has been especially busy on the celebrity bump front. Beyoncé kicked it off with little Blue Ivy. And waiting in the wings: Jessica Simpson, her ex Nick Lachey, Uma Thurman, Sienna Miller, Snooki (yes, her too) and, rumour has it, Drew Barrymore. That means more information than you'd ever want to know about Simpson's salted cantaloupe cravings and the frightening prospect of a little Snooki in Uggs. We dress their babies to be.

Miller's expecting... GETTY

...and Jessica Simpson definitely is. GETTY

Snooki's got a bun in the oven too. GETTY

Mini Jessica Simpson

Baby Gap one-shoulder two-piece.
$25, gap.com

Pint-sized Nick Lachey

Appaman Polo
$40, appaman.com

Mini A Ture Arn in Sesame
$46, kidsen.co.uk

Tiny Sienna Miller

Kidscase organic dress
$37, kidsen.co.uk

Lil' Snooki

Mini Rodini Zebra Print infant bodysuit and leggings
$76, kidsen.co.uk

Smaller Uma Thurman

Marimekko dress
$69, kiitosmarimekko.com

Fashionable ways to style your little ones for springtime

Breton Stripes

Baby Gap bodysuit
$11, gap.com

Gingham

Bonpoint Loraine set
$128, bonpoint.com

Vintage tees

Appaman one piece
$31, appaman.com

Kimonos

Nature baby dress
$25, naturebaby.com

Florals

Giggle romper
$30, giggle.com

Don Draper in bell bottoms?

Hot hippies.
The new season of Mad Men is just a few days away and from the look of things, the show will pick up in the late 1960s

That means a whole new time period's worth of wardrobe possibilities for Don, Betty, Roger and Peggy. We imagine what they'll be wearing.
METRO

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SMARTSET
smartset.ca

Emily Richards makes easy look elegant with diverse eats

Pesto Tomato and Lamb Pasta

You can also try another short pasta such as rotini, fusilli or shells. EMILY RICHARDS

DINNER EXPRESS
Emily Richards
food@metronews.ca

You can change the flavour of this Pesto Tomato and Lamb Pasta by mixing up the ingredients, to make it easy to incorporate into your kitchen and your family's tastes.

Pesto is great to add for lots of flavour with one simple ingredient.

For a nice touch, sprinkle the finished pasta dish with feta or freshly grated Parmesan cheese.

If your family enjoys some heat, for an added spice, add hot pepper flakes to the onion mixture while cooking.

If you're not a fan of dry penne lisce, you can use rotini, fusilli or shells. All of these pastas work just as well in this dish.

1. In a large non-stick skillet, brown the lamb for about 5 minutes over medium high heat or until no longer pink. Scrape the lamb into colander and let drain.

2. Return the skillet to medium heat and add oil. Cook the onion, garlic and Italian seasoning for 5 minutes or until softened.

3. Add the tomatoes, chicken broth, browned lamb, salt and pepper and bring to boil. Reduce the heat and simmer everything for 8 minutes.

4. Stir in the pesto and black olives; cook for about 5 minutes or until thickened.

5. Meanwhile, in a large pot of boiling salted water, cook the pasta of your choice for about 10 minutes or until tender but firm. Drain well and add to skillet. Toss to coat.

Ingredients

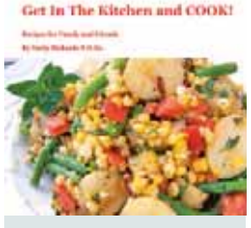
4 portions

- 1 lb (500 g) ground Ontario lamb
- 1 tbsp (15 mL) olive oil
- 1 small onion, finely chopped
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 can (398 mL) diced tomatoes with juices
- 1/2 cup (125 mL) chicken broth or stock
- 2 tsp (10 mL) dried Italian herb seasoning
- 1/4 tsp (1 mL) salt, pepper
- 1/2 cup (125 mL) sundried tomato pesto
- 1/4 cup (50 mL) sliced black olives
- 3 cups (750 mL) dry penne lisce

EMILY RICHARDS IS A PROFESSIONAL HOME ECONOMIST, COOKBOOK AUTHOR AND CELEBRITY TV CHEF. FOR MORE ON EMILY AND HER RECIPES, VISIT HER WEBSITE EMILYRICHARDSCOOKS.CA

Cookbook of the Week

Get in the Kitchen and COOK!



Metro's own Emily Richards puts the focus on the busy family and people looking to entertain without a fuss in her second book, Get in the Kitchen and COOK! (Blurb Inc., $35.95, paperback).

The release is chock full of simple, fool-proof recipes for any occasion. This book has everything from appetizers to desserts. "I love food and I love the way food brings friends and family together. It's also a great way of sharing a lifelong skill. No matter what your age, background or interest, it's so easy to come together and talk about food and get inspired," says Richards.

Among the recipes in the book are Steamed Lemongrass Mussels and French Toast with Smoked Salmon.

METRO

French Toast with Salmon on Greens. A delicious brunch dish

Ingredients

6 portions

- Half of a baguette
- 3 eggs
- ⅓ cup (75 mL) 5% light cream
- 1 tbsp (15 mL) Italian parsley, minced
- ½ tsp (2 mL) smoked paprika
- ¼ tsp (1 mL) salt
- Pinch pepper
- 1 tbsp (15 mL) butter
- 12 cups (3 L) mixed greens
- 2 tbsp (25 mL) olive oil
- 1 tbsp (15 mL) lemon juice
- 1 pkg (4 oz/125 g) thinly sliced smoked salmon
- ¼ cup (50 mL) diced red onion
- 2 tbsp (25 mL) drained capers

1. Slice the baguette into ½-inch (1 cm) thick slices to get 12 slices. Set aside.

2. In a shallow dish, whisk together the eggs, cream, parsley, paprika, half of the salt and pepper. Dip each slice of bread into the egg mixture, turning it to coat well.

3. Melt half of the butter in a non-stick skillet over medium-high heat and pan-fry baguette slices for about 3 minutes turning once or until golden. Repeat with remaining baguette slices.

4. In a bowl, toss the mixed greens with oil, lemon juice and remaining salt and divide onto 6 plates. Divide the baguette slices and top with thinly smoked salmon. Sprinkle with red onion and capers.

EMILY RICHARDS

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Condos in the heart of the core

A rendering of INDX condominiums. CONTRIBUTED

Meet the condo

- **What.** INDX condominiums by Lifetime Developments and CentreCourt Developments
- **Check it.** 70 Temperance St., indxcondos.com, 416-987-4639, from 356 to 821 sq. ft.
- **Pricing.** From the mid-$200,000s to $550,000

The project overview

INDX, a sleek 54-storey glass tower, is designed by the award-winning architectural firm Page + Steele / IBI Group, located in Toronto's financial district, with 1,500 sq. ft. of retail at the ground level. Occupancy is planned for December of 2015.

Location and transit

You can walk from the office to your suite within minutes. Union Station is only steps away, with access to TTC subways and GO transit. Close to the Gardiner Expressway, and cyclists will enjoy Toronto's Waterfront Trail.

In the 'hood

It doesn't get more downtown than this and there's plenty to choose from: Fine dining and entertainment along King St. and nearby St. Lawrence Market. Great shopping can be found at the Eaton Centre and the underground PATH system, all within walking distance.

Building amenities

Enjoy a 3,000 sq. ft. fitness area complete with free weights, cardio machines, spinning and yoga rooms. There's a party area with full-length bar and cocktail lounges. A terrace, movie theatre, golf room, poker room and sports room.

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Rooftop surfing

Stable new home market to start the year

PAUL GOLINI JR.
Chair of the Building Industry and Land Development Association (BILD) and can be found at twitter.com/bildgta), (facebook.com/bildgta), and bildblogs.ca.

It sure feels like spring out there — even summer some days — but I have to keep reminding myself it is only March.

The new housing market in the GTA is easing back into stability with two months of the year under its belt and 4,451 units sold.

More than half of those units were sold in February.

According to RealNet Canada Inc., BILD's official source of new home market intelligence, February low-rise sales increased by 16 per cent over February 2011.

Looking at the historic trend, the recent February sales figures fall very much in line when compared to 2010, which saw 1,610 sales.

With 1,666 singles, semis and townhomes sold last month, the low-rise market captured the majority of the market share for the second time this year.

Meanwhile, the highrise sector saw a 59 per cent decline, mostly caused by a transitional pause in the Toronto market as builders continue to sell existing inventory before launching a new series of projects.

The good news for new condominium purchasers is that the price per square foot has only increased by two per cent over February 2011, reflecting the design innovation and construction controls builders have in place to provide affordable units and stabilizing consumer prices.

What all of this really means is that we are seeing steady activity, particularly in the 905 markets and on the high-rise side.

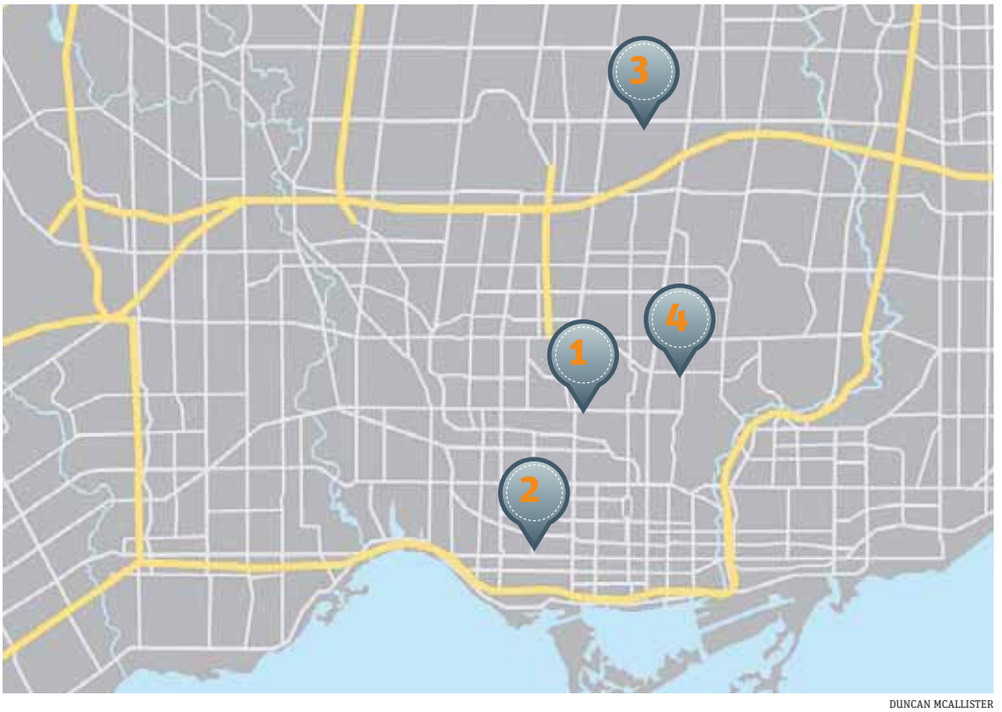
While it may appear that sales are down from last year, it actually reflects the typical February lag as existing units are purchased and new condominium projects prepare to launch later this year.

Units sold

4,451

The new housing market in the GTA is easing back into stability with two months of the year under its belt and 4,451 units sold.

What's hot on the condo market?



DUNCAN MCALLISTER

1. Rise condos

Performance event

Hit up Rise condos performance event, Presentation centre at 501 St. Clair Ave. W., Mar. 27 at 6:30 p.m., RSVP at rise@kimgraham.ca

2. Nero towns

Preview opening

Don't miss the Nero towns preview opening at 854 Dundas St. W., Mar. 24, Call 416-792-6418 or visit nero-townhouses.ca to register

3.Willowdale

Not just any condo, it's a penthouse

Make your way to Willowdale penthouse, Open house, 18 Hillcrest Ave., Mar. 24-25 from 12-3 p.m., Call 416-410-0116

4. Mt. Pleasant

Open house

Check out Mt. Pleasant condo, Open house, 18 Merton St., Mar. 24 from 2-4 p.m., Call 416-925-9191

Condo-dwellers in this area can ditch their car for a pair of trendy sneakers or a bike to ride to work. DUNCAN MCALLISTER

The bond is just one of many condos that have gone up in Toronto's entertainment district. DUNCAN MCALLISTER

Cultural genesis on the John Street corridor

Condo trends. Metro takes a look at what some are calling Toronto's Manhattan (a.k.a. the entertainment district)

DUNCAN MCALLISTER
Life@metronews.ca

An area that's always been hip with artists, Toronto's entertainment district is experiencing a condo renaissance with a multitude of highly-walkable new developments that aim to reshape the look and feel of this cultural village.

"It's Manhattan," says Adam Vaughan, Toronto city councillor for ward 20. He says the entertainment district was born of the industrial heritage of the King and Spadina area to become "home to one of the largest clusters of high-tech media and arts and digital economic centres in the country."

Vaughan attributes the growth in part due to young entrepreneurs and employees of the high-tech sector creating a synergy between the financial and tech areas. "Everyone wants to be where the action is and the action is in the entertainment district, not because of nightclubs," he says.

The councillor says its a chicken and egg scenario: "You've always had a strong arts community and there's always been a telecommunications and a television base to the operations in the King and Spadina areas, but what's happening is that more and more digital media outfits are starting up in the warehouses and secondary office space in proximity to the financial district. That's attracted more creative types to live in the neighbourhood."

Tarik Gidamy is co-founder and broker of record at TheRedPin.com realty. He says developers like the Daniels Corporation were able to sell to an audience that had a connection to the film festival. "Daniels are building those type of products that have a purpose. So you get into all the film festival entertainment events and you're really connected through your own condominium as to the art and cultural palatability of each of those buildings."

Gidamy believes there are still deals to be had. "From a numbers standpoint, compared to the downtown core at an average of $870 a square foot or the eastern downtown core at $961 a square foot, the average of all those 10 major projects in the John street corridor are averaging $702 a square foot, so it's cheaper to actually be in that area."

Where have all the parties gone? The land has become too valuable for clubland. Gone are the heady days with clubs named remarkably like condos; Circa, Moon, Traffik and Embassy. Gidamy says nightlife seems to have moved down the road a bit, to the burgeoning King West and Ossington 'hood.

Soaring to new heights

]The tallest new condos in the Entertainment District.

- **Living Shangri-La.** 66 storeys
- **The Ritz-Carlton.** 53 storeys
- **300 Front Street West.** 49 storeys
- **Theatre Park.** 47 storeys
- **Festival Tower.** 46 storeys
- **The Pinnacle.** 43 storeys
- **Cinema Tower.** 43 storeys

Toronto hot spot

The John Street cultural what?

- **"The corridor."** This is generally considered to be the area between Dundas and the waterfront, and from Simcoe Street west to Spadina.
- **So how's that clubbing thing going for you now?** Expect more intimate, family and friends, and upscale, like the popular Ballroom Bowl on John Street, featuring bowling, beer and bands; what more could you ask for?

You won't miss that evil commute

We're actually building a lot of condos now with almost no parking in them because people actually don't need their cars to exist in this part of the city."
Ward 20 councillor Adam Vaughan

Check for exemptions

HST on land

LEGAL MATTERS
Jeffrey Cowan is the principal of Cowan Law and can be reached by email at jeff@cowanlaw.ca

I have a question regarding HST. I recently severed a piece a land off my property. I am now selling the new vacant land as a residential building lot. And the question is: Is HST payable on the transaction?

Your question is a good one and not as straightforward as you may think. HST is generally applicable when you are building and purchasing new homes and condos. It can sometimes lead to extremely complicated calculations because the federal government offers a GST/HST rebate to qualified purchasers of new homes.

In your case, if you have never personally severed your parcel of land and you are making it into a single residential lot then the sale of that lot is exempt from HST. This is also the case if you sell it to a family member.

The overriding determining factor is if the property is not capital property used primarily in a business and is being sold in the course of that business.

I would consult your lawyer to make sure your land falls under these exemptions.

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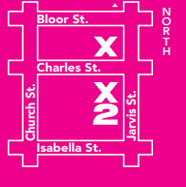

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Flushmount light fixtures add interest without hanging low in the room. Courtney fixture, $290. SEARS

Low-profile furniture helps create taller-looking walls and higher ceilings. Plush Bed, $1,000. CB2

Vertical patterns help to draw the eye up on curtains. Viceroy Velvet Drapes, $108/panel. ANTHROPOLOGIE

Making ceilings soar

Decor ideas. Do your walls have tall aspirations? Here's a few design tricks to make your ceilings appear higher.

DESIGN CENTRE
Karl Lohnes
home@metronews.ca

There was a time when eight-foot ceilings were considered the norm in apartments, condos and townhouses.

Over the last 10 years, many newer homes include soaring ceilings to make up for the smaller footprints of space being offered. But if you're dealing with eight-foot ceilings don't despair; there are some designer tips to help make those daunting lower ceilings rise up to the occasion, in a stylish, modern way.

Paint
I have always subscribed to the old rule that ceilings should be white, and this idea holds even truer when ceilings are lower. A light ceiling will reflect light and draw the eye upward rather than bring the ceiling down in to the room. A slight sheen to your paint will make small spaces with low ceilings look larger by reflecting and bouncing light around. When choosing colours for the entire room, it's always best to create a monochromatic scheme, keeping ceilings lighter.

Window treatments
A vertical blind or drapery panels create tall lines in a room and stretch your view upwards. Tall, vertical patterns on draperies will help make the ceilings look higher. Draperies should be within the same colour as the colour of the walls to create a monochromatic colour scheme while still drawing the eye upward.

Furnishings
Keep chairs and sofa heights to a maximum of 36 inches in height in order to create a low-slung, lounge effect; the lower we sit to the ground the higher the ceilings will appear. This rule holds even more true when choosing a bed and night tables. Keep area rugs colourful and dramatic in order to draw the eye down and away from the ceiling. Tall, floor standing mirrors are a great accessory and can help guide the eye upward (plus the mirror visually enlarges a room).

Mouldings and trims
Paint baseboards, door frames, interior doors and crown moulding the same colour and tone as the walls to create a contemporary and simple vibe; plus you add a few extra inches of visual wall height to the room with just the one colour.

Artwork
Lowering all your artwork a few inches from the norm (the middle of the artwork should be 68 to 70 inches off the floor). This will create a greater distance from the top of the art to the ceiling, therefore suggesting the ceilings are a bit taller. This is a great trick in lower levels and basements, too.

Light fixtures
The bottom of a chandelier or swagged lamp should be hung three to four inches higher than average over an eating table. The bottom should normally be 30 inches from table to bottom of fixture, so raise it to about 34 inches and it will visually help to push your ceilings up. Considering the height restrictions, consider a semi-flush light fixture rather than a hanging fixture; they can be just as decorative and yet are not made to hang low into a room (see top left).

Interesting rugs help draw the eye low in the room. Auslini five-by-eight foot hide rug, $400. HOME DEPOT

Don't entertain crumbs

Toasted glory

CHARLES THE BUTLER
askcharlesthebutler@metronews.ca
For more, visit charlesmacpherson.com

Dear Charles the Butler,

I don't have full-time staff, so cleaning my house is just me! A friend of mine told me that I have to clean the toaster. Do I really need to clean my toaster, and how does one clean a toaster, exactly? Toaster Lady

Dear Toaster Lady,
Well yes, your friend is correct. You do need to clean your toaster both inside and outside.

Firstly, unplug the toaster, and either turn it upside down or open the trap door under the toaster to allow all of the crumbs to fall out.

I like to open the trap door over the sink to let all of the crumbs fall into the sink for easy cleanup. This should be done every month or so. Secondly (again, remember to unplug your toaster before you do this), clean the toaster using a multi-purpose cleaner of equal parts water and white vinegar.

Spray this onto a microfibre cloth once, and then wipe the outside of the toaster clean.

My secret confession is that toast is one of my all-time favourite foods! Toasted fresh bread and butter… for me it is heavenly. Would you ever have guessed that Charles the butler is so crazy for silly old toast?! **HAVE A QUESTION? SEND AN EMAIL TO ASKCHARLESTHEBUTLER@METRONEWS.CA**

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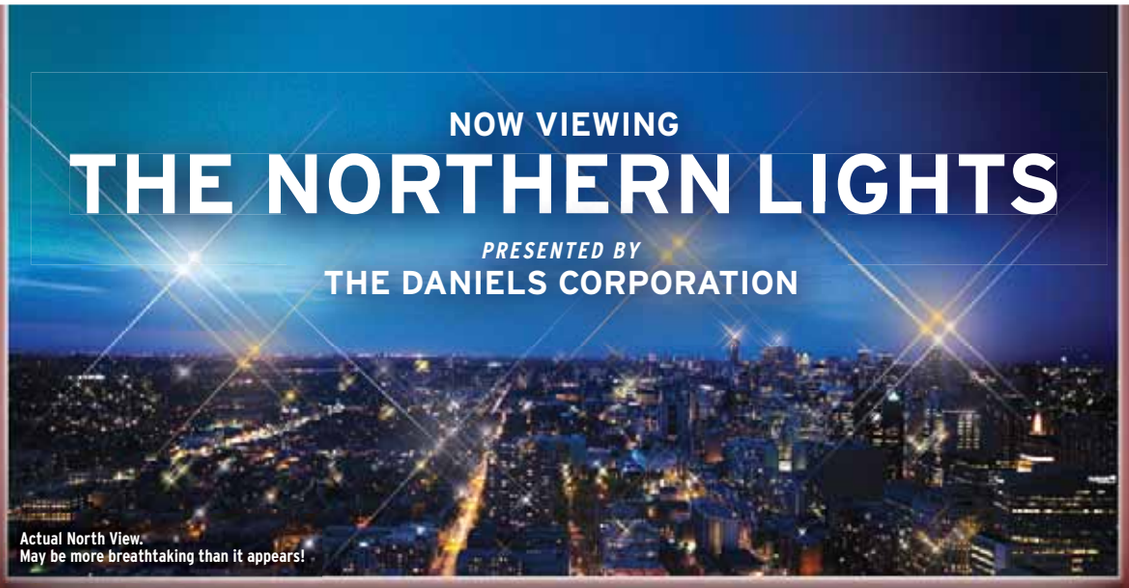

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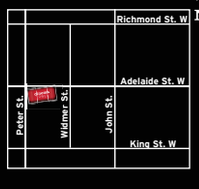

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Deconstructing the new nursery

Trend. Hipsters-turned-parents are rebelling against the baby room of old, refusing to let Fisher Price destroy their home's 'look'

KENYA HUNT
life@metronews.ca

A 'new nursery' in progress. CONTRIBUTED

In a not so small corner of the Internet universe, the topic of babies — specifically how to have one without losing every last ounce of cool, indie, progressive or whatever "edge" — is a thing. I mean, a really, really big thing. I know from personal experience because I'm expecting one.

And in preparing, I've found websites dedicated to baby street style and online magazines solely devoted to retro design-y things for kids. And featured on them all: people like you who are trying to figure the parenting thing out without completely sacrificing their current way of living. Case in point: The New Nursery, which doesn't look like much of a nursery at all, but rather another coolly decorated room in your place that just happens to have a crib and toys.

"I think city dwellers who live in smaller spaces want their home to feel as one. They want the baby's room to reflect their taste and the look they chose for the rest of the house," says Kiliaen Murphy, a London-based former fashion advertising director and mother to a 16-month-old son.

She's part of a generational trend in which new parents are moving away from the Crayola colours, plastic Fisher Price toys and other clichés that characterized child-raising in the '80s and '90s.

"We didn't want all of the bears and boats that adorn everything for baby boys. We just wanted a relaxed space that invites the child into our lives as an equal rather than a 'baby'," she says of her son's room, which is done in brown and beige and has photographs from their travels and art collection on the walls.

Asher Hoffman, the New York-based jeweller behind the line Black & Blue, built a room for the baby girl he's expecting to arrive this spring from scratch, decorating it with steel and reclaimed wood fixtures — and not a single circus animal in sight.

"We live in an old factory building in downtown Manhattan so we didn't want to ignore those roots. And yet we wanted to create something warm. So reclaimed wood seemed like a good way to do that," he says of the space.

"We all live in this space together as a family. So we wanted something that provides balance and harmony for us as a whole," he adds.

The baby room can blend in

"They want the baby's room to reflect their taste and the look they chose for the rest of the house."
Kiliaen Murphy, former fashion advertising director and mother

In my case, we converted my husband's studio into a space for baby, leaving the collages from our art collection on the walls and adding a few pieces of mid-century furniture that would match the rest of our house. What we didn't do was go overboard on buying too many of the 0-12 month things that marketers push down our throats, but would look silly or obsolete once the kid is out of diapers.

"Really, the child only needs you, the parent and love," Murphy says. Hoffman adds one important thing: "That and an endless supply of cookies."

Baby got back

Modernize your wee one's room.

- **Rock it.** Try an Eames rocker instead of the usual upholstered ones. The Eames chairs are easy to wipe clean when baby pukes. Toss on a sheepskin (also washes easily) to make it soft and comfy.

- **Wall art.** Skip the pictures of boats, animals and planes and place real artwork on the walls instead. High contrast, large-scale black and white photos will stimulate baby's visual development, while brightly coloured paintings and collages will keep their eyes engaged down the line.

- **Toys.** Limit the plastic stuff. They don't look that great, often contain toxic chemicals, and are bad for the environment. But if you must, look for the ones that are bio-based and PVC-free.

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Ready to do business: The cast of Selling New York. HANDOUT

Making some deals, breaking some hearts

Real estate. It's the biggest purchase you'll ever make — some tips on how to seal the deal on your new home

LINDA LABAN
life@metronews.ca

"Finding a smart broker is essential," says Boston-based realtor Maggie Gold Seelig.

"They educate buyers about the market. Each city has its own rhythm. The broker must know the neighbourhood and the comparables, or you'll miss opportunities."

Comparables are used to determine a property's fair market value via comparing similar recently sold properties in the area.

Because a home might have unique qualities or fixtures, though, comparables are only a guide.

Keep your cool

When it comes down to the actual negotiations, it's important to keep things impersonal and amicable.

"Whether you're a buyer or seller, never take anything personally," says HGTV's Selling New York cast member Tom Postilio, who heads New York real estate firm CORE.

"It's such an emotional purchase. Remove yourself. [Remember] it's business. It's about numbers."

Negotiations shouldn't fixate on price

"There are levers outside of price," says Seelig, "like closing dates and time frames, which might be more important to the seller than holding out on price. For sellers, perhaps there's something you can include to sweeten the deal for the buyer.

Always remember to leave something on the table for the other side. The seller and buyer have to feel good about the deal. Never close a door — have a conversation."

Deal in gridlock?

HGTV's Tom Postilio has advice for both sides:

Sellers should ask:
"Is this the best deal I'm going to get? How long do I want to hold out for?"

Sellers shouldn't:
"Negotiate with anyone whose finances are not in order. If they're not pre-approved, they must [at least] look like strong candidates."

Buyers should ask:
"Can I live happily without this house?"

Buyers shouldn't:
"Leave financing too late. Today with all the hoops the banks make people jump through, pre-approval can take a bit longer."

Don't get your back up

"Whether you're a buyer or seller, never take anything personally. It's such an emotional purchase. Remove yourself. [Remember] it's business. It's about numbers."

Selling New York cast member Tom Postilio, who also heads the New York real estate firm CORE.

The show's premise

Selling New York is a bit like Gossip Girl meets real estate.

- **What the network says.** "They are assertive, razor-sharp and always compelling real estate brokers in the country's most competitive market. In a city of over eight million people, where the average sale price is over $2 million, the competition to seal the deal is stiff. Now, catch a rare glimpse into a world where a solid reputation at the top of the real estate food chain involves swimming with the sharks, going head-to-head with the best, and rubbing shoulders with the wealthiest and trendiest of New York's social, political and artistic elite." -From HGTV's website

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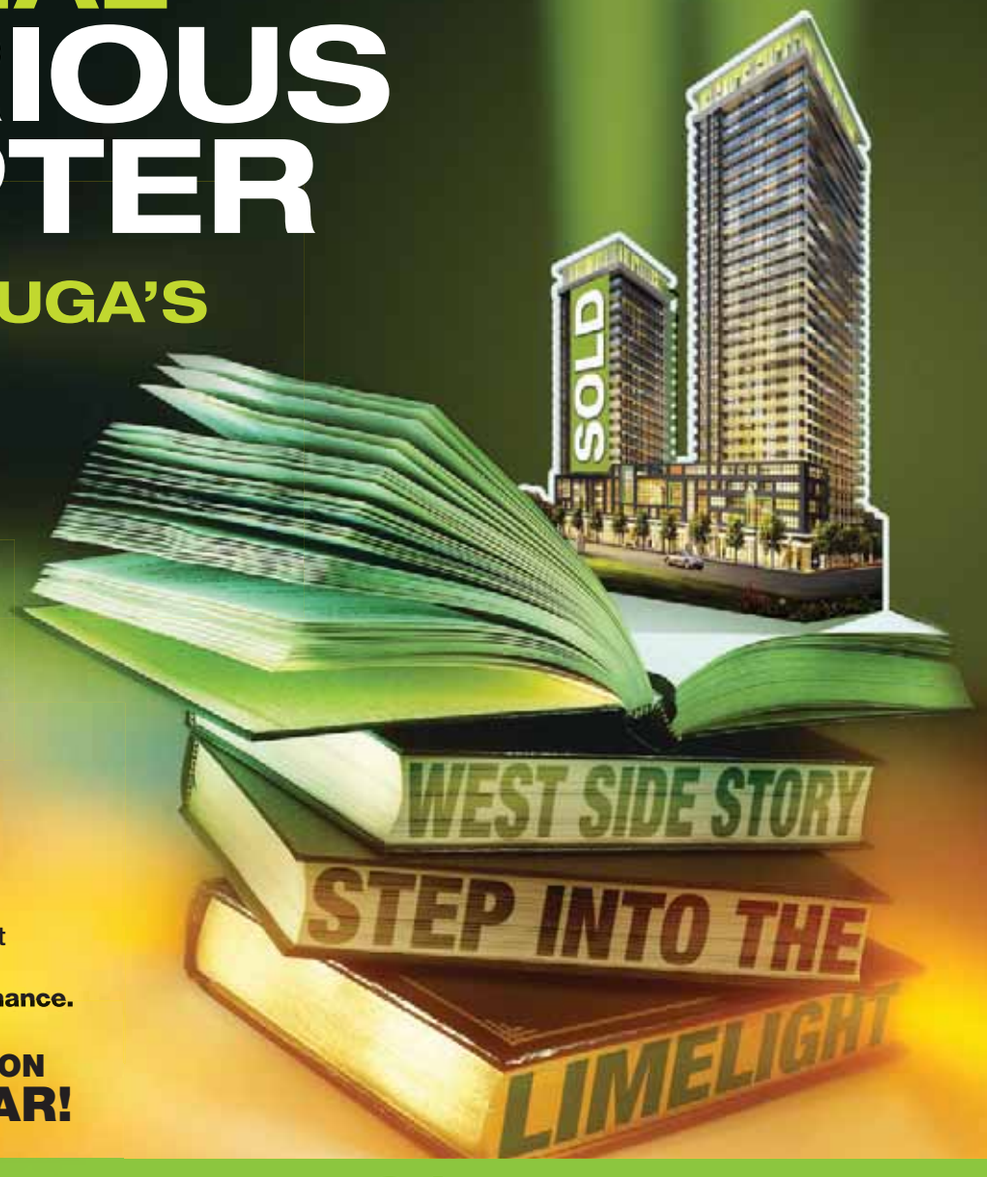

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Dreaming in tangerine

An Arabella in Metallic Gold on Orange Spice wall pattern.
YORK WALLCOVERINGS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hot colour. Give your home a reddish-orange hue this spring

Bold, dramatic and invigorating, Tangerine Tango is dancing its way into home decor trends in 2012 with a punch of reddish-orange panache.

The hue is a vivacious alternative to last year's cheery honeysuckle, and design experts say it's easy to incorporate into any home.

Pillows, bedspreads and tabletop accessories in this high-impact colour can add spice to any room. Or add tangerine appliances and personal electronics for an unexpected pop of colour, says Leatrice Eiseman, executive director of the Pantone Institute, the research arm of the Carlstadt, N.J.-based Pantone Inc., which sets colour standards for the home and fashion industries.

"It's the perfect colour to move us out of the dull and dreary winter months and into spring," says Sabrina Soto, host of HGTV's The High Low Project.

Paint/wallpaper

One easy and inexpensive way to brighten up your home and stay on top of the trends is to paint an accent wall in this hot hue. A bit gun-shy of a tangerine living room? Secondary rooms, such as powder rooms and entryways, are perfect places to experiment with bold colours, Soto says.

"Surprise your guests with walls that pop," she says.

Wallpaper by Pennsylvania-based York Wallcoverings dives head-first into the tangerine trend with a variety of luminescent, metallic gold patterns set against spicy orange backgrounds.

New Jersey-based Thibaut Design offers wallpaper in ornate, intricate, Jacobean paisleys and fanciful plumed birds in this year's colour, as well as less dramatic florals set against a cream background.

Furniture

A lacquered side table or club chair and ottoman are small yet powerful ways to pop this colour into a room through furniture.

"Sometimes the most subtle of gestures are the most outstanding," says Laura Dailey, vice-president of merchandising with Atlanta-based Ballard Designs. "Use it on a smaller piece of furniture ... it's like what a tie does to a suit, that stand-alone piece that makes such a grand statement."

A dark reddish orange, tangerine goes well with neutrals like greys and beiges, as well as with distressed wood finishes, and can be worked into virtually any era, from Arts and Crafts to modern minimalism.

Designer Suzanne Kasler, who partners with Ballard, used a heavy tangerine linen from the European-inspired home furnishings retailer to upholster a pair of tufted slipper chairs that are pictured with nautical accents including a seashell-lined mirror, rattan baskets and large glass lanterns.

A similar tufted chair can be found on Ballard's site starting at $199 (ballarddesigns.com).

Accents

Persian rugs, dishtowels, candlesticks and vases are all fun, inexpensive ways to bring tangerine into your home through accent pieces.

"Try some fresh new towels in your bathroom," Soto says. "This fun colour is the perfect contrast to white tile and porcelain." Soto reminds homeowners not to forget simple touches like a bouquet of fresh orange tiger lilies or gerbera daisies. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Tufted chairs in a tangerine linen fabric is shown in a living room designed by Ballard Designs. BALLARD DESIGNS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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ELEGANT LIVING, EXCELLENT LOCATION — THE STAGE IS SET

Ideally located at the intersection of Sheppard Avenue East and Pharmacy Avenue, Maestro is more than a condominium - it's a performance. Maestro Condominiums is tucked neatly away in the heart of uptown Toronto. It is strategically situated near the future subway/LRT station of the Sheppard subway extension, a key component of the Maestro's integrated business, leisure & lifestyle concept.

Developer: Mutual-Hujade Development Inc.

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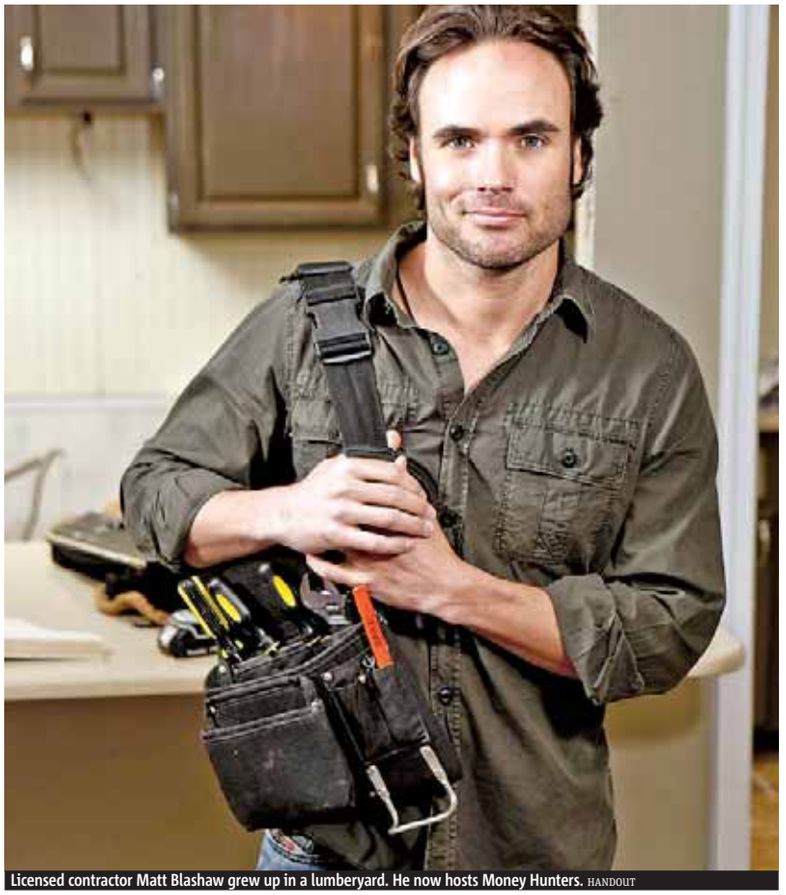

Licensed contractor Matt Blashaw grew up in a lumberyard. He now hosts Money Hunters. HANDOUT

Save a pile of money on your remodel

DIY ideas. Home improvements don't have to cost an arm and a leg. Here's a few cheap tricks that can make your renos less pricey.

Remodelling can be extremely expensive to take on, but with the right tips and tricks, you can save yourself thousands of dollars without sacrificing the look of your home.

In every episode of Money Hunters, Deanne Bell and Matt Blashaw share money-saving techniques as they show homeowners which materials and techniques will stretch their dollars.

1. Repurpose certain elements that may be too expensive to replace entirely, like cabinet doors. Cabinets are often the most expensive thing to replace in a remodel. Changing just the outdated doors will save money, but still transform the whole look of your kitchen.

2. Add a beadboard backsplash instead of using ceramic tiles. Beadboard is an easy, inexpensive and stylish alternative to a tile backsplash.

3. To open up a small space, paint walls white to give it a fresh and open feel.

4. Shop salvage yards, antique shops and flea markets for deals and finds such as work tables, shelving or cupboards.

5. Purchase an easy-to-assemble wainscoting kit for about $150 at your local hardware store. Wainscoting instantly adds detail and interest to an empty wall. Use it in the kitchen to protect the walls from everyday wear and tear. Depending on the finish and design of the wainscoting, it is practical and usable in any room in your house.

6. When going appliance shopping, look for floor models. You will only be missing the box. Or, check out scratch and dent outlets to find a top-of-the-line model for a reduced price.

MONEY HUNTERS AIRS BACK-TO-BACK EPISODES ON THURSDAYS AT 9 P.M. ET/PT ON DIY NETWORK CANADA.

Add some bling

Replace accessories and hardware such as door knobs, kitchen faucets and light fixtures.

- **Small touches go a long way.** You can even put up new window treatments. Something simple can go a long way in updating the look of your remodeled room.

Do some bartering, baby

If doing the work yourself isn't an option, find ways to barter with friends who are handy. Offer to babysit, mow the lawn or run errands in exchange for their handy expertise.

ADVERTISING FEATURE

MONARCH LEADS THE WAY IN HEALTHY LIFESTYLES

Monarch Corporation is pleased to announce the addition of Mikey defibrillator in the Nautilus construction site and is planning to add these units to all of their new high-rise communities as they are built. The defibrillators are life-saving devices that double a person's chance of surviving a cardiac arrest, if delivered in the first minutes of a sudden cardiac arrest.

"We are excited to include these life-saving units in all of our condominium projects currently under construction and to be part of the Mikey Network", says Mirella Sarrapochiello Director of Sales and Marketing of Monarch's High-Rise Division. "It's a wonderful opportunity to raise awareness for heart disease, help save lives and promote healthy lifestyles in all of our communities".

Hugh Heron, President of Heathwood Homes and Heron Homes, and Monarch's President Brian Johnston took part in the presentation. Heron is one of the founding members of The Mikey Network. They explained the goals of the Mikey Network are to install defibrillators everywhere, and help promote heart-healthy living, while providing education on heart disease at every stage from the causes to the cures.

Monarch shares the vision and goals of the Mikey Network and plans to add the Mikey public access defibrillators to their condominium construction sites and in the new buildings as they are built in and around the GTA.

Mikey units have been installed in 4 high-rise condominium sites currently under construction and key staff members have received training on how to use the Mikeys in case of emergency. Attendees at the launch who wanted to learn more were surprised at how remarkably easy the defibrillators were to use. Monarch staff demonstrated how the device's voice prompts broke down each step for the user. As each condominium is completed, Monarch will provide a Mikey defibrillator for the building, and will also facilitate the necessary training for building management personnel.

In addition to their easy use, the defibrillators also have a built in level of safety, as the machines record and analyze the heart rhythms and prompt the user when to push the button to deliver a shock.

Approximately 7,000 cardiac arrests occur annually in out-of-hospital settings in Ontario alone. Since Mikey's inception in 2003, 1200 units have been placed across Canada. More than 10,000 people have been trained in CPR /AED and 12 people have been saved by a Mikey defbrillator that had gone into cardiac arrest.

"With the purchase of defibrillators in Monarch's high-rise communities, we are making a much needed device available for our purchasers and vistors at the Nautilus site and all new projects going forward" Johnston adds. " In addition, we are pleased to make a contribution to the Mikey network, which goes a long way in promoting heart healthy education and help ensure the beat goes on."

Monarch has shaped the Toronto Skyline and helped thousands of Canadians realize their dream of homeownership, with a number of exceptional condominium projects with excellent recreational facilities to promote healthy active lifestyles. The condominiums are in various stages of construction. Lago, Waterscapes and Nautilus all feature spectacular views of the city and lake. Lago is in the pre-construction phase, Waterscapes is under construction and Nautilus with take occupancy this year.

Founded over 90 years ago, multi-award winning Monarch is Canada's oldest and most experienced builder with referral rates much higher than industry standards. Monarch purchasers have the confidence of buying nearly a century of experience.

For an overview of all of Monarch's communities visit monarchgroup.net

The early bird may not get the worm

Spring planting. The warmer weather might have you itching to get your hands in the soil. But gardening too soon can damage your soil and grass.

People attend the Canada Blooms garden show Friday in Toronto. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canadians here, there and almost everywhere have enjoyed unseasonably warm temperatures at the tail end of this winter, already switching their skates for skateboards and launching into other spring-like activities. But gardeners — as tempting as it may be — might want to keep their rakes in the shed for now, and take care where they tread.

"A lot of people have been asking: what do you do when winter ends or never really starts, and spring has suddenly sprung," says Charlie Dobbin, horticultural director of Canada Blooms, the largest flower and garden show in the country. For starters, she cautions that you should not walk on your lawn or touch your garden until it is dry enough.

"A soggy wet soil is not something you want to put pressure on, even foot pressure," she advises during an interview at the indoor garden show, which started Friday and continues until next Sunday in conjunction with the National Home Show.

She offers up a trick for testing whether the soil is dry enough. "Take a handful of soil, squeeze your hand together, open your hand up. If the ball of soil stays in a ball, stay out of the soil because it's too wet. If that ball breaks open and crumbles in your hand, now you can get out your rake and you can rake your lawn, you can do a little pruning or whatever you need to do."

Gardening expert Mark Cullen agrees it's not a good idea to get into the garden when the soil is sopping wet. "You don't want to move that soil around until it's a little bit dry — dry a couple of centimetres down, otherwise you actually damage the integrity of the soil," he says.

Dobbin hopes retailers won't jump the gun and sell anything now that could die in a cold snap. "Geraniums are a good example. They're pretty, we love them, we often want to buy them as soon as we see them, but they will die in a frost," she says.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Smells of summer

"The fragrant garden was just what the name implies. On warm summer afternoons, its heady aroma could be overpowering."

Master gardener Rosanne Dombek

Indecisive by nature?

A collection of smaller, themed gardens can bring a variety of pleasures

Now's the perfect time for dreaming about your spring and summer garden. Gather up your seed and garden catalogues, take some notes, visit a garden centre, let your imagination loose and put a plan on paper.

Choosing one style, though, can be difficult. Do you want a formal garden, a cottage garden, perhaps herbs mixed in with vegetables and flowers? Will you grow only culinary herbs, or a combination of culinary, aromatic and decorative?

Well, why not a little of them all?

Consider planting a number of smaller, themed gardens. I did that at my home in Maine, and came to see each one as a room.

There was a beautiful knot bench in the TEA GARDEN where I grew chamomile, lemon thyme, sage, yarrow, lemon balm, roses, calendula, bee balm, mint, lemon verbena and several scented geraniums. The bees loved this garden, and it was a great stress-reliever to sit on the bench in the warm sun and listen to the buzz of their activity, inhale the fragrances, and enjoy the garden's peace and beauty. In the middle of winter, it was possible to sit and recall the warmer days of summer; the bee balm seed heads were as fragrant then as in midsummer, and you had only to crush one to be taken back.

The Culinary Garden was circular with a birdbath in the centre. The walks around the beds were of crushed rock, and bricks outlined the circular shape. In the winter, the snow would melt off the rocks first and leave the herb beds covered, making an interesting pattern. I grew tarragon, marjoram, curled onion, chives, sage, winter savory, Welsh bunching onion, garlic chives, thyme, oregano, nasturtium, parsley, coriander, chervil, basil and borage here. It was my habit to pick a bouquet of these herbs to chop and toss into a salad. If there were any left over, I would put them in a basket to dry for winter use, or freeze them in a little water to add to a winter soup.

The ROSE GARDEN was next. I planted 14 old-fashioned roses, but some didn't survive the cold winter. I replaced them with the more vigorous rugosa rose. This garden was also circular, but with a larger centre then the culinary garden. I edged the centre with sweet alyssum; placed a lovely old clay pot in the middle filled with scented geraniums; then planted double pink petunias around it. The effect was of a huge tussie mussie. I planted creeping thyme between the bricks in the path. The aroma was out of this world. When the thyme was in bloom, the bees were busy at the blossoms so I had to step carefully.

The next garden was the Everlasting Garden, where I planted herbs and flowers that dry for decorative use: liatris, strawflowers, statice, echinops, xeranthemum, acroclinium, feverfew and salvia horminium, to name a few. Everlastings are easy to grow, and usually the annuals can withstand a light frost. I planted this garden first in the spring and covered the rows with Remay cloth until the days became warmer. A huge number of strawflowers can be harvested from just a dozen plants; I picked them every sunny day. This garden gave me with bouquets to carry to friends, fresh flowers in summer and dried bouquets in the winter. The pleasure of giving and getting was twofold — between the garden and me, and between my friends and me.

The Fragrant Garden was just what the name implies. On warm summer afternoons, its heady aroma could be overpowering. Lavender was of course a part of this garden. Old-fashioned cinnamon pinks, though not as attractive as the new hybrids, smelled beautiful. I planted several dwarf lilacs and a half dozen peonies, along with several fragrant rugosa roses and garden phlox.

There was a succession of aromatic blooms all summer, from the early spring peonies to the late summer phlox. I harvested huge baskets of peony petals for potpourri, and added rose petals from the rose garden. I enjoyed strolling in the gardens just at dusk and picking a bouquet of fragrant herbs to infuse for use in the bathtub. I would put some sprigs in a pan of water, simmer for a few minutes and then strain the infusion into the bath water. The whole house would smell sweet.

With all this talk of fragrant baths, meditative teas and secret hiding corners, you might get the wrong impression of what it is like to cultivate more than an acre of garden space.

My knees were permanently stained brown. It was difficult at times to really enjoy the gardens — or get away for any length of time — because there was always something that needed attention.

Summer was an intense time of planting, weeding, harvesting and processing.

But I loved it. **ROSANNE DOMBEK/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

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Mail-order bride? Sketchy. Mail-order plants? Sure!

Proceed with caution. If your local nursery doesn't have what you're looking for, consider getting a quality plant delivered to your door

People often stare in disbelief when I suggest buying a plant from a nursery thousands of kilometres away. Surely no plant could survive such a journey!

Not so. This time of year, trucks and airplane holds are filled with plants on the move. If shipped from reputable nurseries, they thrive as well as plants purchased locally.

Buyer beware

That "if" is a big one. Quality costs money, so beware of any nursery offering super-bargains or horticultural hype.

For instance, you might see a magazine ad or catalogue listing for a plant described as a "climbing vine peach." Be aware that this plant's fruits might look like peaches but are tasteless by comparison. This "vine peach" isn't even distantly related to a real peach.

And just because a nursery offers an "iron-clad guarantee" does not make it reputable. Some disreputable nurseries offer such guarantees but bank on customers' apathy or their forgetting about such claims when spring melts into summer.

A few rotten fruits do not ruin the whole barrel, though: Many mail-order nurseries sell quality plants and also have strong guarantees.

Just read between the lines of any nursery ad, catalogue or website to determine if the business seems reputable, and do your research about the plants.

Bare root of potted?

Mail-order plants are shipped either potted or bare root.

"Bare root" sounds brutal, but plants do fine shipped this way if handled properly by the nursery and you.

Mail-order plants shown in New Paltz, N.Y. LEE REICH/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

The nursery's job is to dig the plants while they are leafless, except in the case of small evergreens, then keep them cool with their roots swathed in moist peat, sawdust, shredded newspaper or other moist, spongy material.

Years ago, I received a small, bare-root bush cherry plant that had been just tossed into a plastic bag; no wonder it never grew.

Your job is to unpack any bare-root plant soon after its arrival, check that the roots are still moist, then put it in the ground posthaste.

If you cannot plant immediately, keep the plant cool and moist by putting it in your refrigerator with its roots wrapped in plastic, or by temporarily planting it in a shallow hole at a shady, moist location.

Potted plants can go longer before being planted out in their permanent location — as long as you keep the potting soil moist. The nursery's job, in this case, is to pack the plants to arrive at your doorstep with their stems undamaged and their soil intact.

Some nurseries have mastered the art of packing and shipping live plants. Opening a shipping box of their neatly nestled, happy plants gladdens any plant lover's eyes.

Finally, there is something satisfying about walking into a nursery on a balmy spring day, drinking in the bright colours, the smells, the riot of greenery and textures, then buying a plant. But if a local nursery does not have the type or quality you desire, consider mail-order.

LEE REICH/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

'Fraid so

Size matters

Whether you are ordering a bare-root or potted plant — even if you are buying locally — do not always opt for the largest one you can buy.

Large, bare-root plants often suffer more in digging and transit. Large potted plants often have their roots cramped and twisted into undersize pots.

In either case, growth of a smaller plant might outstrip growth of a larger one after a couple of years.

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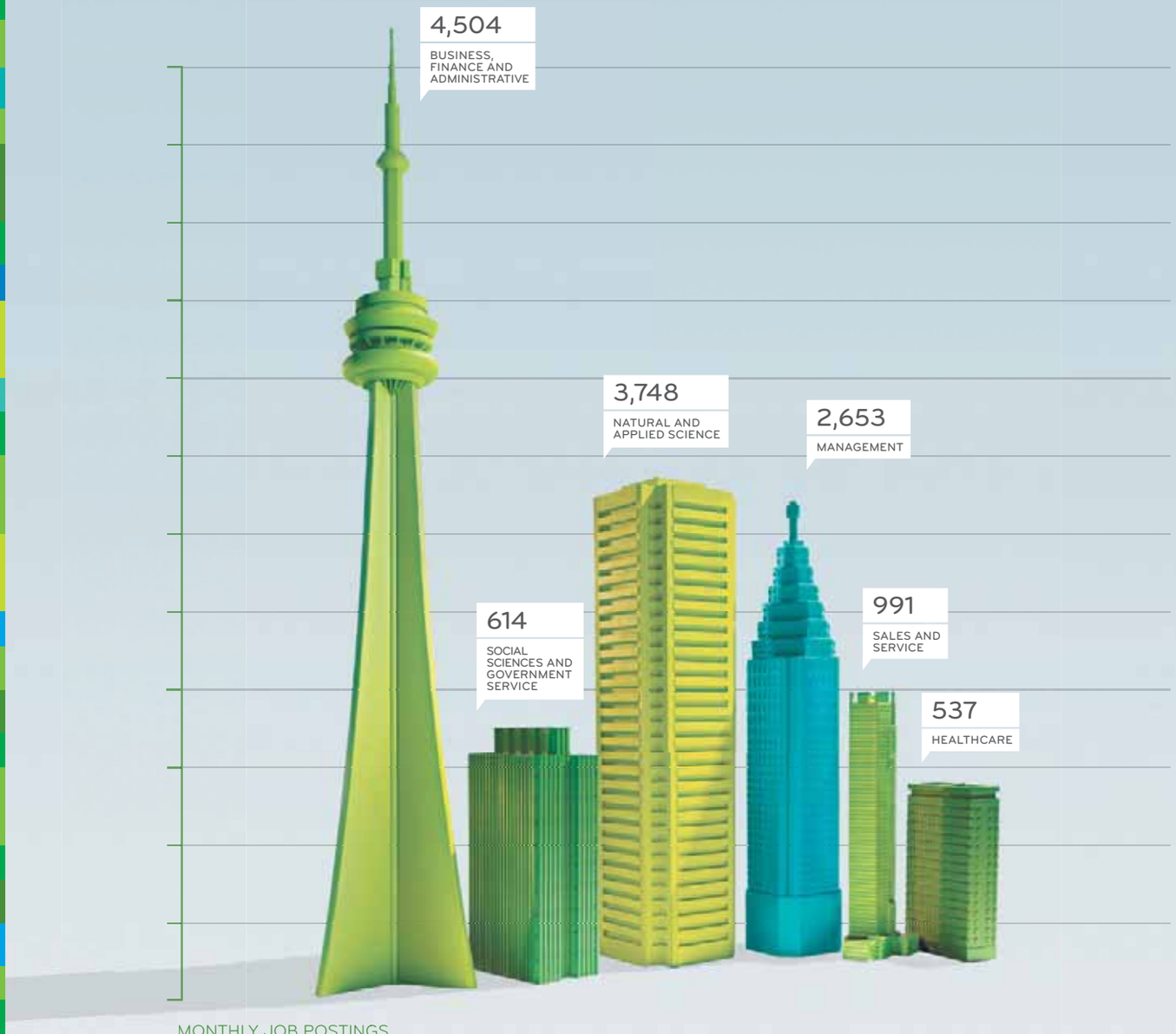

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WORKOPOLIS

Knee-jerk solutions won't solve the Leafs' problems

THE HOCKEY NEWS
Adam Proteau
toronto@metronews.ca

Leaf fans show their displeasure with the team during Tuesday's game against the Islanders. CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

During a regular winter at this time of year, the sun would be in the process of melting down the snow once and for all, usually revealing a few surprises in the form of things once buried underneath the formerly frozen white stuff. Unfortunately for Maple Leafs fans, for the past seven springs, the thaw has revealed the mental anguish they've suffered thanks to exactly zero Toronto playoff appearances since 2004.

You see how that anguish warps the minds of some Leafs fans when you get a load of the sillier suggestions they're making of late. One that makes the least amount of sense is the notion Toronto should trade star winger Phil Kessel (the reasoning being he's not the hard-nosed type of key forward new coach Randy Carlyle values and can't carry a team on his back like Sidney Crosby or Jonathan Toews).

It's hard to know where to begin listing all the reasons a Kessel trade does the franchise no good. For starters, thanks to the Leafs' extended skid out of the playoff race in February, GM Brian Burke would be dealing from a position of weakness and assuredly wouldn't be able to get equal value for the player.

Then there's the facts Kessel (a) is only 24 years old; (b) is on the verge of setting a new career high in goals; and (c) was just getting used to the clear chemistry he found with teammate Joffrey Lupul before the latter was injured. Kessel is one of Toronto's top forwards by almost any measurement, and people want to get rid of him? Preposterous.

The other sketchy idea came in the form of the "fire Burke" chant heard at the Air Canada Centre Tuesday night against the Islanders. It's perfectly fair to hold Burke's feet to the fire regarding the Leafs' failure to make the playoffs during his three-and-a-half years in town, but to suggest he's not doing his job because the team doesn't improve its successes-to-failures ratio in leaps and bounds is to ignore the mountainous rebuilding job Burke took on when he came here. Just as was true when he was GM of the Vancouver Canucks, fans won't see meaningful results for closer to a decade, as prospects slowly start to mature into front-line contributors.

Yes, I said a decade. The truth is, the Leafs' rebuild always was going to take closer to seven or eight years than to three or four. And anybody who thinks Toronto could instantly morph into a hockey juggernaut if only they'd hire a new team architect, or if that architect moved key players in knee-jerk trade, is not only wrong — they're part of the problem.

NFL

Saints coach suspended for the entire season

Meting out unprecedented punishment for a crush-for-cash bounty system that targeted key opposing players, the NFL suspended New Orleans Saints head coach Sean Payton without pay for next season and indefinitely banned the team's former defensive co-ordinator, Gregg Williams.

Payton is the first head coach suspended by the league for any reason, accused of trying to cover up a system of extra cash payouts that NFL commissioner Roger Goodell on Wednesday called "particularly unusual and egregious" and "totally unacceptable."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sean Payton
MARK HUMPHREY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Baseball

Carpenter won't be ready for opening day

Cardinals ace Chris Carpenter won't start opening day after a setback in his recovery from a bulging disk in his neck. Kyle Lohse will start in his place.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Soccer

"Without his heart having a muscular beat ... In effect, he was dead in that time."

Bolton team doctor Jonathan Tobin on the 78-minute period when Fabrice Muamba's heart stopped beating.

4 SPORTS

NFL

Tebow lands with Jets

The Broncos and the Jets have completed a trade to send quarterback Tim Tebow to New York. The deal hit a snag earlier Wednesday when the Jets apparently balked at repaying Denver more than $5 million US for a salary advance due Tebow. ESPN reported that the two sides had agreed to split that cost. The Broncos also will receive fourth- and sixth-round draft picks, while New York gets a seventh-rounder — all in 2012 — as agreed to in the initial deal.

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Raptors MIA for fourth quarter in loss to Bulls

NBA. Toronto falls to 7-15 at home despite outplaying Chicago over the first three quarters of the game

Donning camouflage jerseys in honour of their annual Canadian Forces Appreciation Night, the Toronto Raptors completely disappeared during an eight-minute span of the fourth quarter against the Chicago Bulls on Wednesday night that may go down as their worst stretch of the season.

Luol Deng's 17 points and 10 rebounds paced a balanced attack as the Bulls used their dominant fourth-quarter run to rally past the Raptors 94-82.

Deng led five players in double figures as the Bulls (39-10) improved to 10-2 in March despite being outplayed over the opening three quarters.

C.J. Watson had 15 points while John Lucas added 13 in just 17 minutes off the bench.

DeMar DeRozan's 23 points paced the Raptors (15-32), who dropped to 7-15 at the Air Canada Centre on the season.

James Johnson added 16 points, Jose Calderon chipped in nine points and eight assists and Andrea Bargnani finished with eight points on 2-of-10 shooting.

Down seven after three quarters, the Bulls closed to within three on a Lucas three-pointer from the top of the arc after Calderon had missed back-to-back wide-open jumpers at the other end.

Kyle Korver knocked down a three on Chicago's next possession, and an Omer Asik block led to a Taj Gibson alley-oop dunk that put the Bulls in front for the first time since midway through the second quarter.

Lucas and Korver gave Chicago some breathing room with consecutive jumpers, and Chicago capped the 22-3 stretch with a technical free throw after DeRozan was whistled for jawing at an official.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Without Rose

Chicago prevailed despite playing without point guard Derrick Rose. The reigning NBA most valuable player missed his fifth straight game with a strained groin.

What will Toronto's future look like
When the City won't respect the people who work for it?
Every day, you wake up to a city brimming with energy, ambition and potential.
And for generations, we've been proud to play our part in helping build Toronto — by providing the services you and your family count on. From caring for your children while you're at work, to looking after your loved ones in long term care — and many other services in between.
But the City refuses to recognize the skills, experience and commitment we bring to our work. Instead, in current contract talks, they're threatening city workers — many of whom are women, youth and part-time employees — with cuts, layoffs and unfair work practices.
That's not how we'll keep Toronto moving forward.
Let's tell the City it's time to negotiate a fair, reasonable deal that protects our vital city services.
We need your help
Please let your City Councillor know how much you count on city services.
Visit torontotogether.ca/take-action to find your City Councillor and send an email.
Or call 311 to reach your Councillor by phone.
A message from 19,000 people providing services for the City of Toronto, CUPE Local 79
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CUPE

NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	OTL	SL	GF	GA	Pts	Home	Away	Last 10	Strk
dx-NY Rangers	73	46	20	2	5	201	161	99	26-9-0-2	20-11-2-3	5-5-0-0	W2
d-Boston	72	42	27	1	2	236	178	87	22-13-1-1	20-14-0-1	4-6-0-0	W2
d-Florida	73	36	24	5	8	183	201	85	20-9-1-7	16-15-4-1	6-3-0-1	L1
Pittsburgh	72	45	21	3	3	239	184	96	25-8-2-0	20-13-1-3	9-0-1-0	W1
Philadelphia	73	42	23	2	6	232	206	92	19-11-1-4	23-12-1-2	7-2-0-1	L1
New Jersey	74	42	27	2	3	201	191	89	20-13-0-3	22-14-2-0	6-4-0-0	W1
Ottawa	74	37	27	6	4	221	214	84	19-15-2-2	18-12-4-2	4-4-0-2	L2
Washington	73	37	30	3	3	198	208	80	23-10-1-2	14-20-2-1	5-4-1-0	W1
Buffalo	74	35	29	4	6	190	207	80	19-11-3-5	16-18-1-1	6-2-0-2	W2
Winnipeg	73	34	31	4	4	196	211	76	23-11-1-3	11-20-3-1	4-5-0-1	L2
Carolina	74	30	29	9	6	197	218	75	19-13-1-5	11-16-8-1	6-2-2-0	W4
Toronto	74	32	34	4	4	210	232	72	16-14-3-3	16-20-1-1	3-6-0-1	L2
Tampa Bay	72	32	33	4	3	202	247	71	21-14-1-1	11-19-3-2	4-5-1-0	L3
NY Islanders	73	30	32	7	4	174	218	71	15-16-5-1	15-16-3-2	4-4-1-1	W2
Montreal	74	28	33	4	9	191	206	69	13-15-2-7	15-18-2-2	4-3-2-1	L3

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	OTL	SL	GF	GA	Pts	Home	Away	Last 10	Strk
dx-St. Louis	73	46	19	1	7	189	142	100	29-4-1-3	17-15-0-4	7-2-0-1	W1
d-Vancouver	72	43	21	1	7	223	182	94	21-10-0-4	22-11-2-2	3-5-1-1	L1
d-Dallas	73	40	28	1	4	193	195	85	21-13-0-3	19-15-1-1	7-2-0-1	W1
Detroit	74	44	25	3	2	225	181	93	28-5-1-1	16-20-2-1	2-6-2-0	L6
Nashville	73	42	23	3	5	209	192	92	23-9-2-3	19-14-1-2	5-4-0-1	L1
Chicago	74	41	25	4	4	227	213	90	25-7-1-4	16-18-3-0	8-1-0-1	W4
Colorado	75	40	30	3	2	196	196	85	22-15-0-1	18-15-3-1	7-2-0-1	W2
Los Angeles	73	36	25	5	7	172	160	84	20-13-0-4	16-12-5-3	8-2-0-0	W4
Phoenix	74	36	26	3	9	194	192	84	18-12-2-4	18-14-1-5	3-4-0-3	L1
San Jose	73	36	27	5	5	199	191	82	21-12-2-1	15-15-3-4	3-4-1-2	L2
Calgary	74	34	26	6	8	183	201	82	20-10-1-5	14-16-5-3	5-1-2-2	L3
Anaheim	74	31	32	5	6	185	206	73	19-16-2-0	12-16-3-6	4-5-1-0	W1
Minnesota	72	30	32	2	8	155	199	70	16-15-1-3	14-17-1-5	2-7-0-1	W1
Edmonton	73	29	36	3	5	196	216	66	18-15-2-3	11-21-1-2	4-4-1-1	W1
Columbus	73	23	43	2	5	167	236	53	13-20-1-2	10-23-1-3	5-5-0-0	L1

x — clinched playoff berth; **d** — division leaders ranked 1-2-3 regardless of points; a team winning in overtime or shootout is credited with two points and a victory in the W column; the team losing in overtime or shootout receives one point which is registered in the OTL (overtime loss) or SL (shootout loss) column.

Last night's results
Buffalo 3 Montreal 0
Carolina 3 Florida 1
N.Y. Rangers 2 Detroit 1 (OT)
Vancouver at Chicago
St. Louis at Anaheim

Tuesday's results
Edmonton 6 Nashville 3
Colorado 2 Calgary 1 (OT)
New Jersey 1 Ottawa 0
N.Y. Islanders 5 Toronto 2
Pittsburgh 8 Winnipeg 4
Chicago 5 Columbus 1
Dallas 4 Phoenix 3 (SO)
Florida 2 Philadelphia 1
Los Angeles 5 San Jose 2

Tonight's games
Washington at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.
Nashville at Pittsburgh, 7 p.m.
Edmonton at Tampa Bay, 7:30 p.m.
Calgary at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
Vancouver at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.
Colorado at Phoenix, 10 p.m.
St. Louis at Los Angeles, 10:30 p.m.
Boston at San Jose, 10:30 p.m.

Tomorrow's games
Toronto at New Jersey, 7 p.m.
Buffalo at N.Y. Rangers, 7 p.m.
Winnipeg at Washington, 7 p.m.
Carolina at Columbus, 7 p.m.
Ottawa at Montreal, 7:30 p.m.
Edmonton at Florida, 7:30 p.m.

SABRES 3, CANADIENS 0

First Period
1. Buffalo, Hodgson 17 (Ehrhoff, Tropp) 6:15
Penalties — Staubitz Mtl, McCormick Buf (fighting) 2:47, Leino Buf (hooking) 7:55.
Second Period
2. Buffalo, Pominville 28 (Leino, Roy) 2:31
Penalties — Leblanc Mtl (delay of game) 9:51, Roy Buf (hooking) 18:22.
Third Period
3. Buffalo, Hodgson 18 (Roy, Vanek) 12:45 (pp)
Penalties — Eller Mtl (hooking) 5:30, Staubitz Mtl (interference) 11:56, Cole Mtl (goaltender interference) 16:42, Vanek Buf (slashing) 17:59, Pacioretty Mtl (unsportsmanlike conduct) 18:40, Subban Mtl (cross-checking, roughing) 19:30.

Shots

Montreal	15	7	12	34
Buffalo	10	11	10	31

Goal — Montreal: Price (L,25-27-10); Buffalo: Miller (W,27-18-7). **Power plays (goals-chances)** — Montreal: 0-2; Buffalo: 1-6.
Att. — 18,690 (18,690) at Buffalo.

RANGERS 2, WINGS 1 (OT)

First Period
1. Detroit, Zetterberg 19 (White, Nyquist) 3:36
2. N.Y. Rangers, Richards 24 (Lundqvist) 14:58 (pp)
Penalty — Detroit bench (too many men; served by Bertuzzi) 14:30.
Second Period
No Scoring.
Penalties — Zuccarello NYR (tripping) 9:43, Holmstrom Det (goaltender interference) 11:54.
Third Period
No Scoring.
Penalty — Quincey Det (holding) 8:20.
Overtime
3. N.Y. Rangers, R.Callahan 27 (Del Zotto, Dubinsky) 2:42
Penalties — None.

Shots

Detroit	10	6	9	2—27
N.Y. Rangers	13	6	11	4—34

Goal — Detroit: Conklin (L,3-5-1); N.Y. Rangers: Lundqvist (W,34-15-5). **Power plays (goals-chances)** — Detroit: 0-1; N.Y. Rangers: 1-3.
Att. — 18,200 (18,200) at New York.

SCORING LEADERS

	G	A	PT
Malkin, Pgh	43	50	93
Stamkos, TB	50	34	84
Giroux, Pha	26	58	84
Kessel, Tor	36	40	76
Spezza, Ott	29	46	75
Kovalchuk, NJ	31	43	74
Tavares, NYI	31	42	73
Hossa, Chi	29	44	73
Neal, Pgh	35	37	72
Karlsson, Ott	19	53	72
Eberle, Edm	32	38	70
Elias, NJ	25	45	70
H.Sedin, Vcr	13	57	70
Ra.Whitney, Phx	23	46	69
Eriksson, Dal	26	42	68
Thornton, SJ	16	52	68
D.Sedin, Vcr	30	37	67
Lupul, Tor	25	42	67
Gaborik, NYR	35	31	66
Pominville, Buf	27	39	66
Kopitar, LA	24	41	65
Hartnell, Pha	35	29	64
Sharp, Chi	30	34	64
St. Louis, TB	23	41	64
E.Staal, Car	21	43	64
Parenteau, NYI	16	48	64
Iginla, Cal	31	31	62
Parise, NJ	28	34	62
Selanne, Ana	23	39	62
Moulson, NYI	32	29	61
Seguin, Bos	26	34	60
Datsyuk, Det	17	43	60
Filppula, Det	23	36	59
P.Kane, Chi	19	40	59
Zetterberg, Det	18	41	59
Wheeler, Wpg	17	42	59
Couture, SJ	30	28	58
Pacioretty, Mtl	30	28	58
O.Jokinen, Cal	21	37	58
Ryder, Dal	32	25	57
Toews, Chi	29	28	57
Marleau, SJ	27	30	57
Benn, Dal	22	35	57
Purcell, TB	20	37	57
Erat, Nash	18	39	57
Ribeiro, Dal	16	41	57
Perry, Ana	35	21	56
Ovechkin, Wash	32	24	56
Vrbata, Phx	30	26	56
B.Richards, NYR	23	33	56
P.Bergeron, Bos	19	37	56
Desharnais, Mtl	16	39	55
Lucic, Bos	23	31	54
Hall, Edm	27	26	53
Franzen, Det	26	27	53
O'Reilly, Col	17	36	53
Michalek, Ott	32	20	52
Cole, Mtl	27	25	52
Pavelski, SJ	26	26	52
Vanek, Buf	23	29	52
Fleischmann, Fla	22	30	52
Krejci, Bos	20	32	52
Weiss, Fla	18	34	52
J.Williams, LA	18	34	52
E.Kane, Wpg	28	23	51
Getzlaf, Ana	9	42	51
Callahan, NYR	26	24	50
Alfredsson, Ott	22	28	50

Not including last night's games

SOCCER

ENGLAND

PREMIER LEAGUE
Yesterday's results
Manchester City 2 Chelsea 1
Everton 0 Arsenal 1
Queens Park Rangers 3 Liverpool 2
Tottenham 1 Stoke 1

LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP
Yesterday's results
Blackpool 3 Leicester 3
Cardiff 2 Coventry 2
Ipswich 1 Burnley 0

FRANCE

FRENCH CUP
Quarter-finals
Gazelec Ajaccio 1 Montpellier 0
Paris Saint-Germain 1 Lyon 3
Valenciennes 1 Rennes 3

GERMANY

GERMAN CUP
Semifinals
Borussia Moenchengladbach 0 Bayern Munich 0 (extra time)
(Bayern advanced 4-2 on penalties)

ITALY

ITALIAN CUP
Semifinals
Napoli 2 Siena 0
(Napoli advances on 3-2 aggregate)

SCOTLAND

SCOTTISH CUP
Sixth Round
Replay
St. Mirren 0 Hearts 2

SPAIN

LA LIGA
Yesterday's results
Atletico Madrid 2 Athletic Bilbao 1
Sporting Gijon 2 Mallorca 3
Valencia 1 Zaragoza 2
Villarreal vs. Real Madrid

MLS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Kansas City	2	0	0	6	4	0
Houston	2	0	0	6	2	0
Chicago	0	0	1	1	1	1
Montreal	0	1	1	1	1	3
Toronto	0	1	0	0	1	3
Columbus	0	1	0	0	0	2
Philadelphia	0	2	0	0	2	5
D.C.	0	2	0	0	1	4
New York	0	2	0	0	1	4
New England	0	2	0	0	0	4

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Real Salt Lake	2	0	0	6	5	1
Colorado	2	0	0	6	4	1
Vancouver	2	0	0	6	3	0
Portland	1	0	1	4	4	2
Dallas	1	0	1	4	3	2
Seattle	1	0	0	3	3	1
Los Angeles	1	1	0	3	4	4
San Jose	1	1	0	3	1	1
Chivas USA	0	2	0	0	0	2

Tomorrow's game
Houston at Seattle, 10 p.m.

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
d-Chicago	38	10	.792	—
d-Miami	34	11	.756	2½
Orlando	29	18	.617	8½
d-Philadelphia	26	20	.565	11
Indiana	26	18	.591	10
Atlanta	26	20	.565	11
Boston	24	21	.533	12½
New York	22	24	.478	15
Milwaukee	21	24	.467	15½
Cleveland	17	26	.395	18½
Detroit	16	29	.356	20½
Toronto	15	31	.326	22
New Jersey	15	32	.319	22½
Washington	10	34	.227	26
Charlotte	7	37	.159	29

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
d-Oklahoma City	34	12	.739	—
d-San Antonio	29	14	.674	3½
d-L.A. Lakers	28	18	.609	6
L.A. Clippers	26	19	.578	7½
Dallas	27	20	.574	7½
Memphis	25	19	.568	8
Denver	25	21	.543	9
Houston	25	22	.532	9½
Utah	24	22	.522	10
Phoenix	23	23	.500	11
Minnesota	23	24	.489	11½
Portland	21	25	.457	13
Golden State	18	25	.419	14½
Sacramento	17	29	.370	17
New Orleans	11	34	.244	22½

d-division leader

Last night's results
Chicago at Toronto
Phoenix at Orlando
New York at Philadelphia
Cleveland at Atlanta
Washington at New Jersey
L.A. Clippers at Oklahoma City
Golden State at New Orleans
Minnesota at San Antonio
Detroit at Denver
L.A. Lakers at Dallas

CURLING

WOMEN'S WORLD CURLING CHAMPIONSHIP

At Lethbridge, Alta.

Country (Skip)	W	L
South Korea (JS.Kim)	6	1
Sweden (Sigfridsson)	5	2
Canada (Nedohin)	5	2
Switzerland (Ott)	5	2
U.S. (Pottinger)	3	4
Scotland (Muirhead)	3	4
Germany (A.Schopp)	3	4
Russia (A.Sidorova)	3	4
Denmark (Nielsen)	3	4
Czech Republic (Klimova)	2	5
Italy (Gaspari)	2	5
China (B.Wang)	2	5

ROUND ROBIN
Yesterday's results
Draw 12
South Korea vs. Canada; Italy vs. Switzerland; Czech Republic vs. U.S.; Sweden vs. China.
Draw 13
China vs. Scotland; U.S. vs. Russia; Switzerland vs. Denmark; Canada vs. Germany.
Draw 14
Denmark vs. Italy; Germany vs. South Korea; Scotland vs. Sweden; Russia vs. Czech Republic.

MLB

SPRING TRAINING

Yesterday's results
Minnesota 7 Detroit 3
St. Louis 2 N.Y. Mets 1
Pittsburgh 6 Boston 5
Toronto 6 Baltimore 3
Atlanta 3 Washington 2 (10 inn.)
N.Y. Yankees 5 Tampa Bay 2
Chicago White Sox vs. Seattle
San Francisco vs. Cleveland
San Diego 3 L.A. Dodgers 0
Oakland vs. Kansas City
Milwaukee vs. Arizona

BLUE JAYS 6, ORIOLES 3

Toronto	ab	r	h	bi	Baltimore	ab	r	h	bi
R.Davis cf	3	0	0	0	En.Chavez rf	2	2	2	0
Gose cf	1	1	0	0	R.Flaherty 1b	2	0	0	0
Vizquel ss	3	0	2	0	Hardy ss	3	0	2	0
Valbuena ss	2	0	0	0	Tolleson pr-ss	1	0	0	0
Arencibia c	3	1	1	1	Betemit 1b	1	0	0	1
Bocock 3b	2	0	1	2	S.Beerer rf	1	0	0	0
Lind 1b	3	0	0	0	Ad.Jones cf	3	1	2	2
Woodward pr-1b	1	0	0	0	Antonelli 2b	1	0	0	0
B.Francisco rf	4	0	0	0	Wieters c	3	0	0	0
Snider lf	2	1	1	0	R.Paulino c	1	0	0	0
R.Nanita lf	1	1	1	0	Mar.Reynolds 3b	3	0	0	0
Y.Gomes 3b-c	4	1	2	1	B.Britton 3b	1	0	1	0
Cooper dh	2	1	0	0	Reimould lf	3	0	1	0
McCoy 2b	3	0	0	0	G.Davis lf	1	0	0	0
J.Diaz 2b	0	0	0	1	C.Davis dh	3	0	0	0
Hester ph-dh	1	0	1	0					
Andino 2b	3	0	0	0					
J.Ruettiger cf	1	0	1	0					
Totals	**34**	**6**	**8**	**5**	**Totals**		**34**	**3**	**9**	**3**

Toronto	**011**	**000**	**004**	**6**
Baltimore	**101**	**001**	**000**	**3**

E—Strop (1). DP—Toronto 1, Baltimore 1. LOB—Toronto 7, Baltimore 7. 2B—Vizquel (2), Snider (5), Y.Gomes (4), Reimold (2). HR—Arencibia (4), Ad.Jones (2). SB—Gose 2 (3), Ad.Jones (1). SF—J.Diaz, Betemit.

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Toronto						
Drabek	3 1-3	3	2	2	2	3
L.Perez	1 2-3	2	0	0	0	0
Cordero	1	2	1	1	0	1
Janssen	1	0	0	0	0	0
Hoey W,1-0	1	0	0	0	0	0
R.Uviedo S,1-1	1	2	0	0	0	3
Baltimore						
Tom.Hunter	5	5	2	2	2	2
Ayala	1	0	0	0	0	0
Lindstrom	1	0	0	0	0	1
Patton	1	0	0	0	1	0
Strop L,0-1 BS,1-2	1-3	2	4	1	1	0
S.Pomeranz	2-3	1	0	0	0	0

HBP—by Patton (Lind). WP—Strop.
T—2:48. A—6,243 (7,500).

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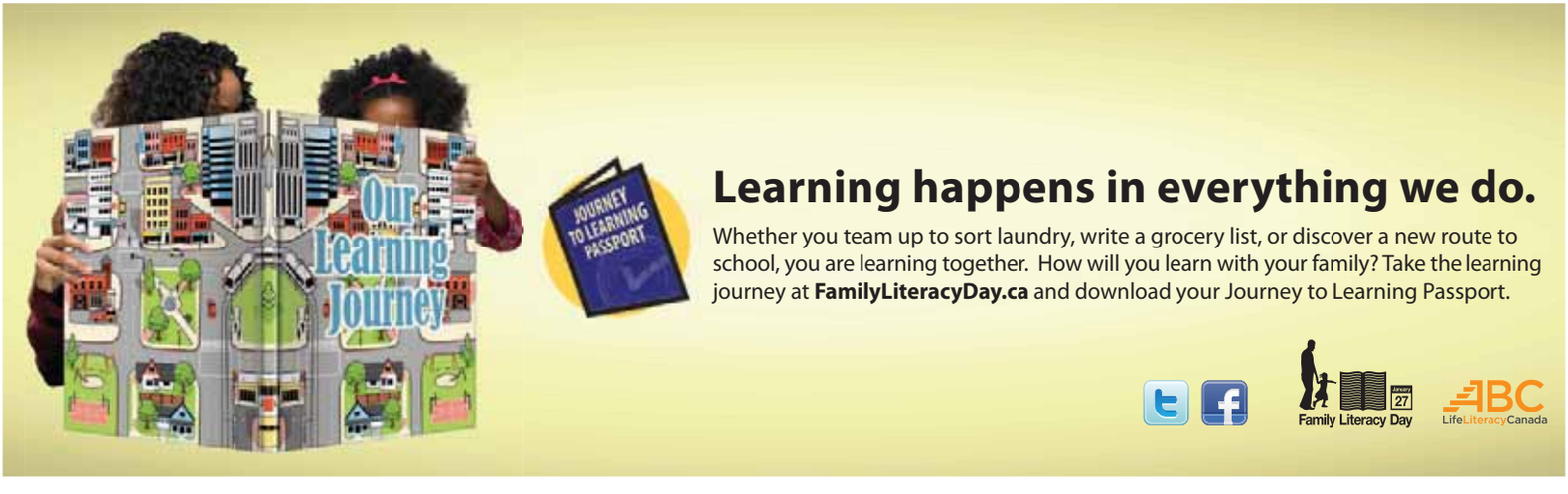
EAST DIVISION

	GP	W	L	Pct.	GF	GA	GB
Philadelphia	10	6	4	.600	115	125	—
Rochester	10	5	5	.500	126	120	1
Buffalo	10	4	6	.400	127	129	2
Toronto	10	4	6	.400	118	129	2

WEST DIVISION

	GP	W	L	Pct.	GF	GA	GB
Colorado	10	8	2	.800	130	119	—
Calgary	10	7	3	.700	135	109	1
Minnesota	9	5	4	.556	113	105	2½
Washington	10	3	7	.300	101	121	5
Edmonton	9	2	7	.222	98	106	5½

Tomorrow's game
Philadelphia at Colorado, 9 p.m.
Saturday's games
Toronto at Rochester, 7:30 p.m.
Buffalo at Calgary, 9 p.m.
Washington at Edmonton, 9 p.m.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Radulov finally returns to Nashville

NHL. 'It's about time,' says Russian forward as he rejoins team that drafted him in 2004

Alexander Radulov has rejoined the Nashville Predators after four years playing in Russia in the KHL. How quickly he fits back in remains to be seen.

"Nine games is enough — hopefully," Predators coach Barry Trotz said after Radulov's first practice Wednesday morning.

For a situation frozen since Radulov bolted back home to Russia to be the face of the Kontinental Hockey League, it's been a whirlwind over the past two days that the Predators hope propel them to their first Stanley Cup.

Radulov arrived in Nashville on Tuesday night and was picked up at the airport by general manager David Poile. The Predators lifted their suspension of the forward Wednesday morning, then gave him his old No. 47 at a news conference before he hit the ice on a team that still has six teammates from his first stint in Nashville.

He said "it's about time" he returned to the NHL.

The Predators held that number for Radulov hoping the 15th pick overall in the 2004 draft would return eventually.

"It certainly wasn't fun in 2008 when he left. That wasn't a good thing," Poile said. "Maybe now this is a real good thing. Maybe now we get back a more finished product, a more mature person and player and maybe this works out really good for us. That's certainly what I'm hoping."

Nashville ranks fourth in the Western Conference with nine games left, trailing St. Louis by eight points both in the Central Division and for first in the West.

"He's a superstar," defenceman Ryan Suter said of Radulov. "He plays hard and has got a great shot, and it's fun to be out there with him."

Radulov left in July 2008 after signing a three-year contract with the KHL's Salavat Yulayev Ufa despite having a year left on his entry contract with the Predators.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Predators forward Alexander Radulov stretches with teammates on Wednesday. MARK HUMPHREY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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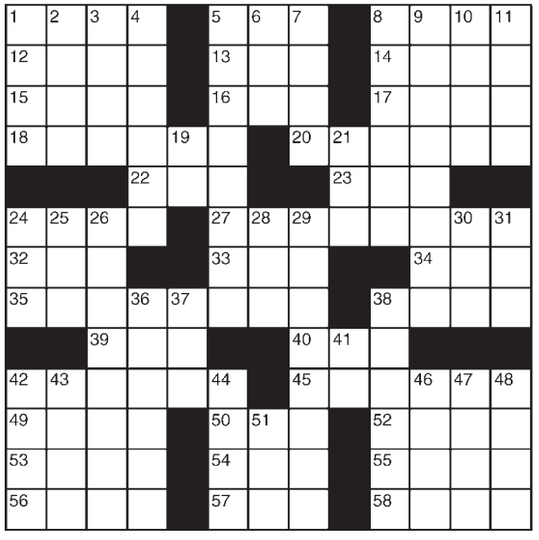
Crossword



Across

1 Sleeping
5 "Avatar" technology (Abbr.)
8 Reverberate
12 Georgia city
13 Young fellow
14 Thick chunk
15 Poetic foot
16 Work with
17 Remedy
18 Wood nymphs
20 Meager
22 Deterioration
23 Annoy
24 Harbor structure
27 "The Defiant Ones" duo
32 Web address
33 Prot. or Cath.
34 Genetic letters
35 Breach in a levee
38 "Hey, you!"
39 Have a bug
40 Way back when
42 "Lord Jim" author
45 Soft fabric
49 Neighborhood
50 Haven't paid yet
52 Early primary state
53 Dave of "Mad" magazine
54 Rowing need
55 Dance lesson
56 Not good, not bad
57 "— Doubtfire"
58 Dame Myra at the piano

Down

1 Desertlike
2 Wild hog
3 TV trophy
4 Come ashore
5 Groups of grapes
6 Petrol
7 Mid-month date
8 Steep slope
9 Some old cars
10 Rodgers collaborator
11 Follow instructions
19 "— as I say ..."
21 Spy novel org.
24 French nobleman
25 Hockey great Bobby
26 Laundromat alternative
28 French possessive
29 Butchers' tools
30 Type measures
31 Perched
36 Shrew
37 — carte
38 Shine
41 "We Bring Good Things to Life" co.
42 Urban fleet
43 Sandwich cookie
44 Armageddon
46 November responsibility
47 Rams fans?
48 Spigots
51 Doves' aversion

Yesterday's answer

P	A	R	T	■	L	A	B	■	M	E	S	A
A	S	E	A	■	E	G	O	■	I	V	A	N
S	A	N	C	T	I	O	N	■	L	I	L	T
S	P	O	K	E	■	■	D	A	N	C	E	S
■	■	■	L	A	C	E	■	G	E	T	■	■
A	N	T	E	■	A	L	O	E	■	I	D	O
C	U	R	■	K	N	E	A	D	■	O	U	R
E	T	A	■	I	T	C	H	■	K	N	E	E
■	■	C	A	W	■	T	U	N	E	■	■	■
L	A	T	V	I	A	■	■	B	A	L	S	A
A	R	I	A	■	J	U	N	C	T	I	O	N
P	E	O	N	■	A	R	E	■	O	M	A	N
P	A	N	T	■	X	I	V	■	N	O	P	E

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

Sudoku

3				4				8
	7			8			9	
9			5		6			3
2		7				1		5
		5	2		7	3		
4		1				9		2
7			6		4			9
	2			5			3	
8				3				6

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's answer

1	6	3	4	7	9	8	5	2
4	5	8	3	2	6	1	9	7
2	7	9	5	1	8	6	3	4
7	1	4	2	6	3	9	8	5
6	9	2	8	5	7	3	4	1
8	3	5	1	9	4	7	2	6
3	2	7	6	8	5	4	1	9
9	8	1	7	4	2	5	6	3
5	4	6	9	3	1	2	7	8

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- **Baby.** I love you with all my heart. From the beginning of art class listening to Guns and Roses to four years later in the beginging of our adult lives. I can never imagine my life with out you. Im sorry for the few months of distance I shown you, but know I know more than ever I love you. Just as we always said Forever and Always. I Love You Baby From Doll Face :)
- **Barb.** Since you have come into my life I have been so happy. You have given me so much joy. Time spent with you is never boring, we laugh and carry on, we enjoy the same things, thank you for rescuing me. I hope to spend the rest of my days with you. From the blues man
- **Fever.** Are you saying i've got a fever for you, you are not nice to me? or that's really you have a fever? I do not know. from me?
- **My Miss.** Im so happy my dove didnt fly away till tommorrow I love you<3 From <3
- **Everyone.** So many love stories, so many parallel stories. Makes me wonder. From Goodluck

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Horoscope

Aries | March 21 - April 20. This is a special time for you and today's new moon will make it more special still.

Taurus | April 21 - May 21. Today you will be asking yourself why you said certain things or made certain decisions. Even if you won't find the answer, it's OK as long as you're thinking.

Gemini | May 22 - June 20. This is an important day for your ideas and your beliefs and the way that you interact with the world.

Cancer | June 21 - July 22. Today's new moon will give your personality added confidence and fizz. You are sure to make some kind of breakthrough.

Leo | July 23 - Aug. 22. Not everyone will approve of what you are planning to do but that just makes it even more attractive.

Virgo | Aug. 23 - Sept. 22. Today's new moon will inspire you to start something new but the only way you'll find time for it is if you let go of something old.

Libra | Sept. 23 - Oct. 22. Even if you make it clear that you are not remotely interested in someone else's opinions they will still make sure you hear all about it.

Scorpio | Oct. 23 - Nov. 21. It is of the utmost importance that you take time out of your busy schedule to reassure loved ones.

Sagittarius | Nov. 22 - Dec. 21. Very soon you'll have to knuckle down to some work, but for now it's all about fun.

Capricorn | Dec. 22 - Jan 20. Make sure loved ones know what you think and how you feel. Make sure you know their views.

Aquarius | Jan. 21 - Feb 18. Travel and social plans may be disrupted today but that's okay because you will gain more than you lose. Take it as it comes.

Pisces | Feb. 19 - March 20. This is the ideal time to confront certain feelings that you have been trying hard to deny.

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Caption Contest

"I don't think the anti-aging cream is working!"
Nancy

CHARLES DHARAPAK/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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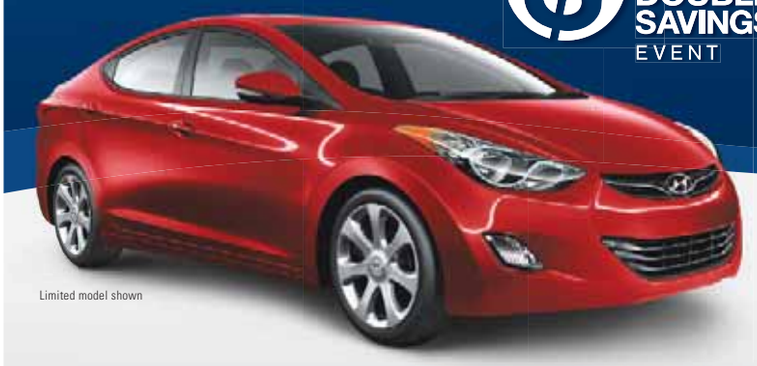

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Limited model shown

OWN IT $143† BI-WEEKLY PAYMENT | WITH 0% FINANCING FOR 84 MONTHS | SAVE 30¢/L UNTIL 2013[Ω] | AND $0 DOWN PAYMENT

SELLING PRICE: $25,895* SANTA FE GL 2.4 6-SPEED. DELIVERY, DESTINATION & FEES INCLUDED. PLUS HST.

HIGHWAY 7.7L/100 KM 37 MPG▼

2012 SANTA FE

Powerful & efficient – the true definition of a cross-over

$1,500 FACTORY TO CUSTOMER CREDIT◊

GLS model shown

OWN IT $187† BI-WEEKLY PAYMENT INCLUDES $1,500 FACTORY TO CUSTOMER CREDIT◊ | WITH 0% FINANCING FOR 84 MONTHS | SAVE 40¢/L UNTIL 2013[Ω] | AND $0 DOWN PAYMENT

SELLING PRICE: $33,895* INCLUDES $1,500 FACTORY TO CUSTOMER CREDIT◊ VERACRUZ GL FWD. DELIVERY, DESTINATION & FEES INCLUDED. PLUS HST.

HIGHWAY 8.5L/100 KM 33 MPG▼

2012 VERACRUZ

7 PASSENGER SEATING

"It's a seven-seater, mid-size SUV with serious cargo and people-carrying capacity." – the Globe and Mail

5 YEAR WARRANTY
100,000 KM COMPREHENSIVE LIMITED WARRANTY◊

5-year/100,000 km Comprehensive Limited Warranty
5-year/100,000 km Powertrain Warranty
5-year/100,000 km Emission Warranty

HyundaiCanada.com

The Hyundai names, logos, product names, feature names, images and slogans are trademarks owned by Hyundai Auto Canada Corp. †Finance offers available O.A.C. from Hyundai Financial Services based on a new 2012 Elantra L 6-Speed Manual/Elantra Touring L 5-Speed Manual/Sonata GL 6-Speed Manual/Santa Fe GL 2.4 6-Speed Manual/2012 Veracruz GL FWD Auto with an annual finance rate of 1.9%/0%/0%/0%/0% for 84/84/84/84/84 months. Bi-weekly payment is $103/$93/$135/$143/$187. No down payment is required. Cost of Borrowing is $1,188/$0/$0/$0/$0. Finance offers include Delivery and Destination of $1,495/$1,565/$1,760/$1,760, fees, levies, charges and all applicable taxes (excluding HST). Registration, insurance, PPSA and license fees are excluded. Delivery and destination charge includes freight, P.D.E., dealer admin fees and a full tank of gas. Financing example: 2012 Elantra L 6-Speed for $17,380 at 1.9% per annum equals $103 bi-weekly for 84 months for a total obligation of $18,568. Cash price is $17,380. Cost of Borrowing is $1,188. Example price includes Delivery and Destination of $1,495, fees, levies, charges and all applicable taxes (excluding HST). Registration, insurance, PPSA and license fees are included. Registration, insurance, PPSA and license fees are excluded. ▼Fuel consumption for 2012 Elantra L 6-speed manual (HWY 4.9L/100KM; City 6.8L/100KM)/2012 Elantra Touring L (HWY 6.4L/100KM; City 8.9L/100KM)/2012 Sonata GL 6-Speed (HWY 5.7L/100KM; City 8.7L/100KM)/2012 Santa Fe GL 2.4L 6-Speed Manual FWD (HWY 7.7L/100KM; City 11.0L/100KM)/2012 Veracruz GL FWD (HWY 8.5L/100KM; City 12.7L/100KM) are based Energuide. Actual fuel efficiency may vary based on driving conditions and the addition of certain vehicle accessories. Fuel economy figures are used for comparison purposes only. ‡Purchase or lease a new 2012 Elantra Touring L, GL, or GLS and you will be entitled to a $500 factory to Dealer credit. Factory to Dealer credit applies before taxes. ΩPurchase or lease a 2012 Elantra/Elantra Touring/Sonata/ Santa Fe/Veracruz during the Double Savings Event and you will receive a Preferred Price Petro-Canada Gas Card worth $160 (2012 Elantra/$250 (2012 Elantra Touring and Sonata/$375 (2012 Santa Fe/$540 (2012 Veracruz). Based on Energuide combined fuel consumption rating for the 2012 Elantra Manual (5.9L/100km) / Elantra Touring Auto (7.7L/100km)/Sonata Auto (7.3L/100km)/Santa Fe 2.4L Auto (9.0L/100km)/Veracruz Auto (10.8L/100km) at 15,400km/year. Yearly average driving distance (Transport Canada's Provincial Light Vehicle Fleet Statistics, 2012)), this is equivalent to $0.20 (2012 Elantra)/$0.25 (2012 Elantra Touring and Sonata)/ $0.30 (2012 Santa Fe)/$0.40 (2012 Veracruz) per litre savings on each litre of gas up to a total of 800 Litres (2012 Elantra)/1,000 Litres (2012 Elantra Touring and Sonata)/1,250 Litres (2012 Santa Fe)/1,350 Litres (2012 Veracruz). †◆‡Offers available for a limited time, and subject to change or cancellation without notice. See dealer for complete details. Dealer may sell for less. Inventory is limited, dealer order may be required. ▲Based on Natural Resource Canada's 2012 ecoEnergy award for most fuel efficient full-size car. ◊Hyundai's Comprehensive Limited Warranty coverage covers most vehicle components against defects in workmanship under normal use and maintenance conditions.